VALSA

10-YEAR-OLD **KAJOL PACKS A MIGHTY PUNCH** Page 7



TRADITIONAL HIGHGATE ALES MAKE COMEBACK Page 10



PUPIL FINDS A NASTY SURPRISE IN HER TRAINER Page 12



Staff banned from eating at their desks

Staff at Walsall Council have been banned from eating at their desks in a bid to present a "more pro fessional image

fessional image".

The changes have been brought in at the human resources department, which looks after the council's 10,000 workers.

Finance chief Councillor Chris Towe, said the department received a high number of visitors and it was important staff portrayed a business-like image. He said: "A set of office protocols has been issued which encourages staff to use the facilities that are available.

"They are able to relax with their colleagues during heaks. This presents a more professional

during breaks. This presents a more professional image for the high number of visitors who attend our office on a daily basis.

ounce on a daily basis."

The move is said to have angered some staff.

One worker, who did not want to be named, said:
"It is yet another rule to follow. Some people have
been upset by this."

Councillor Towe said staff should talk to their
managers if they have any problems.

managers if they have any problems.

"It's disappointing that anonymous callers are choosing to contact the media in this way rather than discuss their concerns with the appropriate managers at the council who are best placed to deal with their worries and give accurate information rather than speculation," he said.

There had also been rumours that flexitime had been banned at the council. But Councillor Towe said was not the case, Flexitime allows staff to work varied hours rather than the traditional 9am to 5pm working day. "Flexitime has not been stopped," he said. All procedures are reviewed regularly and flexitime is one of those items that is reviewed on a regular basis."

regular basis."

Earlier this year, council staff were banned from including jokes in emails.

Council chiefs were branded "killjoys" as a result but said they were making sure employees did not waste the council's time by exchanging "inappropriate material". The email and internet usage procedure states: "Users shall not send, forward or distribute frivolous, abusive or defamatory messages to other users."

Parents warned over disease

Parents in Walsall are being urged to look out for the symptoms of foot, hand and mouth disease after suspected cases were found in the borough.

Two schools have written to the West Midlands West Health Protection Unit asking for advice on the illness. Leaflets were given to the schools to hand out to parents.

A spokesperson for the HPA said: "Hand, foot and mouth disease is a common virus that usually affects children under 10 years.

"The disease can spread easily between children so if a child at school or nursery becomes infected it's important to let other parents know what signs and symptoms to look out for.

"The illness usually starts suddenly with a sore throat, temperature and blisters develop on the inside of the mouth and throat.
"In most children the illness is mild and they can return to school when then they feel well and the blisters have dried up."

People are being urged to call NHS Direct or their GP for advice.

DEAT

Fees for burials and baby ceremonies to increase

T TO RIS

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Burial and registration fees in Walsall are set to rise. Bereaved families in the borough will have to pay more for burials and cremations, while register office charges for marriages and baby-naming ceremonies will also rise.

riages and bady-naming ceremonies will also rise.

Walsall Council predicts the additional charges will bring in an extra £90,000 next year. All service costs are set to rise with some increasing by just a few pounds while others will increase by up to £199.

But council bosses said the move will help fund the "significant investment" due to be made at Streetly Crematorium, including the installation of mercury safety equipment and the replacement of old cremators.

Some of the borough's cemeteries have also been extended with additional burial areas created while the public reception area at the town's register office has also been improved. Councillor Anthony Harris, who is overseeing the changes, said: "It is important that we continue to offer a high quality service to our bereaved residents and we have outlined our commitment through significant investment over recent years.

Process

Process

"An annual review of fees and charges is an important part of the process in ensuring we maintain the high service standards we have set and these new charges will enable us to do this."

Fees within bereavement and registration services are reviewed annually. The proposal to increase fees from January 1 2011 were due before Walsall Council's cabinet this week.

Under the proposals, the cost of the exclusive right to burial for a full grave will increase by £66 to £1,537, while the cost of a grave for cremated remains will rise from £809 to £845.

A burial held on Saturdays, Sundays or Bank Holiday will cost an extra 10 per cent on top of normal burial and interment fees.

The cost of a vault for three grave spaces will increase by £199, from £4,413 to £4,612.

Cremation fees, memorial plaques, headstones and entries into the Book of Remembrance are all included under the proposal.

Meanwhile, the cost of outside marriages and civil partnerships held on Saturdays and Sundays will increase from £339 to £354.

Thousands pay their respect



Walsall sea cadets proudly guard the monument to John Henry Carless

Walsall sea cadets proudly guard the Walsall Sea Cadets were amongst the throusands around the region who turned out to pay their respects to the war dead at the weekend.

They formed the guard of honour at the Walsall Cenotaph for this year's Remembrance parade and service.

The sailor section of the Unit mounted this year's guard and they also formed the lining party for the civic procession.

cession.

At the end of the service the guard rejoined the other members of the unit in the main body of the parade before marching from Bradford Place to Lichfield Street where Mayor of Walsall Councillor Gary Clarke and members of the Royal British Legion took the salute

e monument to John Henry Carless
in front of the Council House.
After making their salute the Sea
Cadets fell out of the parade at the
memorial to John Henry Carless V.C.
Here, led by their chaplain the Rev
David Sims, they held a short ceremony,
paid their respects to him and laid a
wreath in his honour.
The great nephew of ordinary seaman
Carless, Pc Roger Hearsey, who has
served with Walsall police for more than
20 years, lead the tributes to his relative
and other fallen servicemen and
women. Mr Carless served in the Royal
Navy and was on the HMS Caledon at
the Battle of Heligoland Bight during
the First World War in 1917.

Picture special – page 2

Thieves steal lethal drugs

A medical bag containing dangerous drugs was stolen in a burglary at a home in Walsall. Thieves broke into the house in Dursley Close, Willenhall, stealing the keys to a black Vauxhall Astra.

The car parked outside the house contained the medical bag. Police said the thieves escaped in the Astra and they also warned people the stolen drugs were highly dangerous and should not be taken. They are used to stop blood clotting and could cause haemorrhaging.

The medication is an anticoagulent called Clexane—an anti-platelet drug. The burglary took place some time between 11.30pm on November 10 and 8am on the 11th.
Today, police investigating the Dursley Close raid

Sam on the 11th.

Today, police investigating the Dursley Close raid appealed for help from anyone who may have seen or heard anything suspicious in the area.

Anyone with any information is asked to telephone CID officers at Bloxwich police station on 0345 113 5000.

Dog's rescuer needed rescue

A man who jumped into an icy canal in to save his dog ended up being rescued by firefighters. The man leaped into the Walsall Canal off Pleck Road. He managed to climb out of the water with his pet, believed to be an alsatian cross. But both he and the dog found themselves trapped on the opposite side of the canal to the towpath, next to an industrial estate.

estate.

A passer-by raised the alarm after spotting them around half an hour later. Two crews from Walsall and Wednesbury attended the scene.

Firefighter Ian Molyneux of Walsall fire station said: "We don't know how the dog came to be in the water, but it is clear the man decided to go into the canal to rescue it. Both managed to get out but found they could not get off the bank."

The crew from Wednesbury drove on to the industrial estate above the banking and lowered a ladder to the man.

Attempts were made to winch the dog up, but in the end it was given a fireman's lift up the ladder, by one of the crew.

ne of the crew. The drama unfolded at 12.20pm on Saturday

School handed £9,000 boost

Children, staff and families at Pelsall Village School are celebrating after being given more than £9,000 of Lottery cash.

The Old Town Lane school was awarded £9,251 of Big Lottery Fund cash to cover the cost of a new stage for the school's popular end-of-term and Christmas plays.

Headteacher Jane Clark said children at the school prided themselves on the quality of their stage productions and concerts, which they performed to mark faith festivals and milestones.

However, she said the audience often found it difficult to hear the voices and see their children on the stage due to its position in the hall and the poor acoustics. The staff set about preparing the school's bid titled Make Me Seen and Heard Please, to pay for new stage blocks and a set of microphones.

Plans are in the pipeline for funds for a pair of stage curtains to improve the acoustics.



e still remember them



Some of the veterans organisations in the parade as it makes its way along Bloxwich High Street.





Reading the names of the war dead are from left Margaret Wootton, Licensed Reader – All Saints Church, Rev Phill Hoar – St John's Methodis Church and Rev Roger Williams – Rector, All Saints Church.

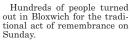


Retired Drum Sergeant Alf Cooper plays The Last Post at the Bloxwich War Memorial.



The gathering join together in singing the national anthem at the memoria in the town centre.





Report and pictures by Stuart Williams





The wreaths laid in respect at the base of the cenotaph.

read out the Bloxwich and district Roll crosses and of Honour for the Great War and the Second World War.
Retired Drum Sergeant Alf Cooper played The Last Post to herald the traditional two minutes silence at 11am.

ad out the Bloxwich and district Roll crosses and poppies for fallen relatives

Sunday.
People from Bloxwich, Blakenall Heath and Leamore gathered to watch the parade assembled and marched south, allow the parade as the bloom to watch the parade and to honour fallen UK servicemen and women who gave their lives in the two world wars and many conflicts since.

The parade was gathered outside the former Bulls Head pub, which was recently destroyed by fire, in Park Road at 10.20am. Bloxwich, Poles Church, who with the Rector of the armed and civilians or the source closed the High Street so the event and country and hymns to honour the fallen uks erry well supported and onlookers were once again a particularly impressed by the large palyed The Last Post to herald the traditional two minutes silence at 11am. The clergy then led the crowd in rayer and hymns to honour the fallen of the veterans in the parade, and to pray for future peace.

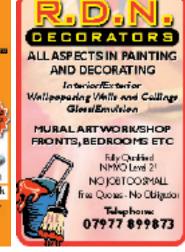
The people were welcomed by Rev High Street of the service of the same and time and the laying of welcome the former Bulls Head pub, which was recently destroyed by fire, in Park Road at 10.20am. Bloxwich, Poles, the could run smoothly. At 10.40 the grade assembled and marched south, aled by the Walsall Coronets band. The clergy then led the crowd in the clergy then led the crowd in the veterans in the parade, and to pray for future peace.

The people were welcomed by Rev High Street of the service of St. John's Methodist of the armed and civilence and the veterans in the parade, and to pray for future peace.

The people were welcomed by Rev High Street of the service of some particularly impressed by the large multiply i This year's event was very well sun







Pass rate at GCSE hits 71pc

Seventy-one per cent of young people living in Walsall had achieved the equivalent of five A*-C grades at GSCE by the age of 19 in 2008/09, a report revealed.

The figure falls below the national average of 76 per cent, but the report into post-16 learning by Serco, the firm that runs education in Walsall, showed an improvement on 2004/81.

firm that runs education in Walsall, showed an improvement on 2004/05, when it was just 60 per cent. Figures for Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton also fell below the national average, with the lowest being Sandwell at 67 per cent.
Young people living in Walsall and achieving two A-levels by age 19 climbed to 41 per cent in 2005/09 from 33 per cent in 2005/06, but again fell short of the national average of 49 per cent.

short of the national average of 49 per cent.

The report by Sue Wedgwood, assistant managing director for improvement and effectiveness, showed that 79 per cent of 16 to 19- year-old college students living in Walsall succeeded in achieving the qualification they set out to get in 2008/09 compared to 75 per cent in the previous two academic years.

Students living in Dudley topped the charts with 85 per cent achieving their goal in 2008/09 while Wolver-hampton had the lowest with 74 per

cent.

The success rate for apprenticeships was 67 per cent in Walsall for 2008/09 – lower than the national average of 68 per cent. In advanced apprenticeships, Walsall topped the charts with a 82 per cent success rate.

Turkey putrid buyers claim

Tests are to be carried out on frozen turkeys which were sold at the newly-reopened Brownhills Market following complaints from customers.

Walsall Council's environmental health officers have ordered the tests after three shoppers said the turkeys tasted putrid.

The trader, who advertised 200 turkeys for sale every hour for £2 each at the Silver Street site, has been advised not to sell any more until test results come back.

Councillor Zahid Ali, Walsall Council communities and partnerships chief, said a sample turkey had been sent off for analysis.

He said: "It may be that the turkeys are safe to eat, but taste bad. In the meantime we would advise anyone who has bought one to avoid opening and cooking them until we can issue further advice." Anyone wanting to return their turkeys can contact the stallholder.

New home found for town boxers

An amateur boxing club which is being forced out of its base ahead of the Walsall Waterfront development will be rehoused on the outskirts of the town centre.

Pleck Boxing Club has been granted permission to move into an industrial unit in Fairground Way after 10 years in Wolverhampton Street. It had been due to move to Blakenall Heath.

Tenants vie to move

About 300 Walsall tenants are urgently seeking a different home, the borough's biggest landlord says. They have either a significant medical condition or are homeless and have been put on a 'gold' waiting list by Walsall Housing Group.

More than 13,500 households are registered for a move via their Choose & Move system. Most, an estimated 9,000, include families with children

Nursing

bill rises

year. Sue Wakeman, director

Sue Wakeman, director of human resources, said at the public board meeting of the hospital trust that the extra cost would be mitigated by hiring more permanent staff, meaning the Manor will be less reliant on agencies. A recruitment day was held at the hospital recently in an attempt to fill vacancies, including nursing positions, and about 300 people attended for just 100 jobs.

"Our temporary budget spend will go down," Ms Wakeman said.

Sickness The hospital spent £4.7m on agency staff in 2009/10, up 46 per cent from £3.2m the previous

ear. It was revealed in July that the

temps

re in the bronze category – ade-tately housed, but wanting to move r personal reasons.

for personal reasons.

Applicants are put into a gold, silver or bronze band, depending on scale of housing need, and can bid on properties in their band which become available. The applicant who has been waiting the longest is offered the property.

Lee turns life around

A teenager from Walsall who left school with one GCSE has turned his life around and is set to land a job with a top legal firm.

job with a top legal firm.

Lee Chadburn, aged 18, has now been awarded a Shining Star award for the hard work and dedication which landed him a job for his first rung on the career ladder as an executive assistant.

Lee, from Chuckery, said he was

planning to work his socks off in the coming years and make his way up to legal executive, and eventually become a solicitor for Bradin Trub-shaw, the firm which gave him his first chance.

He said he left school when he was 16, when he was living in Buck-

Commons to debate axing of hospital bus

A row over the scrapping of a bus that took elderly residents to Walsall Manor Hospital has reached Parliament. A motion has been tabled in the House of Commons over the decision to axe the 639 service.

The bus travelled from Wednesbury to Walsall via Darlaston and the hospital. The decision means some elderly residents now have to catch three buses to reach the hospital in Moat Road, it is claimed.

Walsallchronicle@ The hourly bus service was cut in

expressandstar.co.uk

hospital in Moat Road, it is claimed.

The hourly bus service was cut in January last year, prompting a 120-name petition against the decision.

The operator, National Express West Midlands, blamed declining passenger numbers, while Centro said it only had limited funds to subsidise "socially necessary" buses in the Midlands.

Valerie Vaz, Labour MP for Walsall South, has tabled the motion, which expresses concern over the effect on elderly people.

"Elderly and disabled people in Walsall South, constituency now have to catch

South constituency now have to catch three buses to attend appointments at Manor Hospital," the motion says. The cost of hiring agency staff at Walsall Manor Hospital increased by £10,000 to £361,775 n September.

Agency staff now account for nearly four per cent of the total pay bill, and the amount paid to agency staff for nursing has increased by £38,800 over the year.

manor Hospital," the motion says.

"This House is further concerned that this journey now takes approximately one hour and 20 minutes, depending on the buses running to their timetable, and is particularly difficult for people with limited mobility due to the steep gradients they must walk up to reach the relevant bus stons."

vant bus stops."

The motion calls on the Government to urge Centro to reinstate the route.

Operations

Operations

Elderly people said they were left high and dry when the bus was axed, with Darlaston residents saying they had been wiped off the map. Chris Perry, head of transport operations at Centro, said: "There are plenty of alternative services into Walsall town centre that go direct to the Manor Hospital, including the 335 and 336 which will go every 15 minutes from November 28. "However, we are to undertake a review of the bus network of west Walsall and Wolverhampton in the summer of 2011 and we will take this request on board as part of the consultation.

Centro said it had taken no action to replace the 639 service as other buses covered the route. The only exception to this was on the approach to Wednesbury via Bilston Road and Holyhead Road, where figures showed there was an average of just four passengers per day.

Card making class

Children in Walsall can design and make their own Christmas cards at a free drop-in workshop. Walsall Leather Museum will host the

workshop on November 28, 10.30am to 12.30pm, for children aged five to seven. Children aged eight to 12 can take part in an afternoon workshop.

Pupils plot fast root to food



Punils at Whetstone Field Primary celebrate with head Kate Hancox

Children at a Walsall school will be

Children at a Waisall school will be growing vegetables after starting their own allotment. Youngsters at Whetstone Field Primary asked for the plots and are now growing winter crops.

The school council approached the parents' association, which raised \$2,500.

An unused grassy slope has been

An unused grassy slope has been dug out with the seven classes having two or three plots each. The

contaren are growing vegetables such as cabbages, leeks and sprouts to follow the success of a potato patch which was already in place.

Kate Hancox, headteacher of the school in Beaufort Way, Aldridge, said they were happy to support the children.

"Thou all wanted comewhere to

children are growing vegetables such

"They all wanted somewhere to plant their own things. We want chil-dren to understand how they can grow things themselves."

Helpers needed to plant

The planting of 4,000 new trees and shrubs in Walsall Arboretum will begin next week with volunteers being urged to grab a spade and dig in. A total of 3,000 trees and shrubs are being donated by The Woodland Trust, with a further 1,000 fruit trees offered by the Tree Council. These will be planted in the Arboretum Extension, with the first of two volunteering events set for Saturday, November 27 to coincide with National Tree Week and the launch of the Government's National Tree Planting Initiative.

Jo Lester, chairman of Walsall Arboretum Extension will become a healthier, more attractive and productive local amenity and this will partly be achieved through members of the public turning up to help us."

Campaign

Campaign

Volunteers are asked to take their own wellies and, if possible, their own spade between 10.30am and 2pm.

The second planting campaign will be held on Thursday, December 2, from 10.30am to midday, focussing on the area next to the cricket club at the arboretum extension. The Arboretum User Group, the Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Gary Clarke, councillors, and volunteers will be taking part.

Leisure boss Councillor Anthony Harris said: "Walsall Arboretum User Group's passion, commitment and enthusiasm is driving these two planting events forward."

Staff fight off armed gang

Raiders armed with a baseball bat attacked staff at a takeaway in Wil-lenhall.

attacked staff at a takeaway in Wilehahall.

The attempted robbery outside Pizza Pan, in Walsall Road, took place as the premises were being closed up in the early hours of Monday. A male member of staff was with two friends when they were approached by three men and struck with a baseball bat while one of them demanded cash.

The victims fought back and the attackers fled empty-handed in the direction of Birmingham Street.

DC Roger Smith, of Walsall CID, said: "We know very little about the three offenders, and urge anyone who was passing by the area and saw them hanging around, or running from the seene, to come forward.

"Thankfully the three victims were

"Thankfully the three victims were largely unharmed and managed to overpower the robbers."

Anyone with information can call Walsall CID on 0345 113 5000 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Festive show tor museum

Walsall Leather Museum is hosting an evening of poetry, music and drama on December 3.

A Celebration of Christmas will be performed by Intimate Theatre at the Littleton Street West venue. Tickst cost £14.50 for the 7.30pm event. For more information about the evening and to buy tickets call 01922 653116.









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Borough gets new dentists

Three new dental practices have been officially opened in Walsall after it was revealed only a fifth of people in the east of the borough were registered with a dentist.

New and expanded surgeries have been set up in Pheasey, Aldridge and Walsall town centre as part of a drive to boost services in every neighbourhood.

A major public consultation hald

hood.
A major public consultation held last year revealed there was a desperate shortage of practices in the east of the borough, with Aldridge and Pheasey identified as priority areas.
A Walsall NHS drive to boost dentist facilities was given the official seal of approval by the country's top dental chief who officially opened the practices.

dental chief who officially opened the practices.

Barry Cockcroft also helped launch a mobile dental unit which will be set up at locations in the borough.

Mr Cockcroft's first stop was Wisdom Dental Care Practice, in Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, where he met staff.

Colingwood Drive, Pheasey, where he met staff.
Fiona Perks, practice manager, said: "We are really pleased Mr Cockcroft has come to see our practice. We were so excited to show him our newly extended premises and the Pheasey

Mr Cockcroft then travelled to meet

MT Cockcroft then travelued to meet staff at Aldridge House Dental Prac-tice, owned by Rodericks Limited. Practice manager Shalin Mehra said: "I would like to say what an honour and privilege it is to have been chosen by NHS Walsall to provide NHS dentistry to the people of Aldridge."

Aldridge."
Finally, Mr Cockcroft visited
Goodall Dental Practice in Walsall

rescribed in Walsain tractice in Walsain town centre.

Phil Griffin, associate director of primary care contracting for NHS Walsail, said: "It is an honour to be able to accompany the chief dental officer and show him the excellent dental services that we have."

Lions looking for members

New members are wanted for the Aldridge & District Lions Club which raises thousands for borough causes. The group is part of Lions Clubs International and organises social and fundraising events in the town for their charity fund.

The annual Aldridge Fair is held in June and year nine children also take part in an annual inter-school quiz.

Along with a trophy the winning team also receives cash.

Some of the organisations to have received funding or equipment from the Aldridge Lions include Walsall Heart Care, Midland Air Ambulance, Walsall Hospice, local MacMillan Nurses, the RNLI and Parkinsons Disease Society. Anyone interested in joining can call 01922 451638 or visit www. aldridgelions.com

Festive market

A Christmas market will be held at a Walsall church this week. Stalls, face painting and balloon modelling will be on offer at St Martin's Church, in Sutton Road, on November 20. The event will run between noon and 3pm. Admission is 50p.

Club plans sent in

Plans for a new building to replace an arson-hit rugby club have been submitted.

submitted.

The old clubhouse at Aldridge
Rugby Club, off Little Hardwick
Lane, burned down in July last year.
Players were forced to spend last

Bosses at the club are keen to get the plans off the ground quickly. The £320,000 scheme will include 177 sq

m changing rooms, showers and toilets with a linking corridor. There will also be an lobby, toilets,

There will also be an lobby, tollets, a meeting room for players, with dining space for players to use after matches.

Players and members will also have the use of bar with a cellar and kitchen. The club said it is not plan-

ning to open up to the community for fear of disturbing nearby residents.

Shot cat is put down

A cat died after being shot in the leg with an air gun. It was originally thought the young pet was hit by a car in Edison Road, Beechdale, Walsall, but an x-ray revealed a pellet in her leg. Witnesses to the shooting of the black short-haired domestic cat are now being urged to come forward.

Posters were put up along the road as owners of the pet need to be found

and told. The cat is believed to be between two and three years-old and was seen dragging her back legs.

The RSPCA were called at 1pm on Tuesday and the cat taken to vets by a collection officer. Fests showed a pellet went through her left leg and into her right. Vets had to put her to sleep due to the injuries.

Anyone with information can call the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999.

Manor facing fines over delays in A&E

The A&E department at Walsall Manor Hospital is so congested bosses could be fined for the constant delays. Patients are waiting hours to see doctors because ward beds are not being freed-up quickly enough.

being freed-up quickly enough.

Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust chief executive Sue James admitted it was a "major problem" in a report to health bosses. She said she had also received a letter from Denise McLellan, chief executive of the borough's primary care trust, warning of "financial sanctions" should walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

the delays continue to borough in the delays continue to borough in the delays continue to borough in the delays continue to borough.

Centre for

homeless

gets £60,000

overheads.
"We have had a wonderful harvest period with churches and schools donating mostly tinned food which has filled up our storage. We believe that we are now okay for the next 12 months, but we are continuing to make applications for funds to commence them as many take a long while to process."

Police to make checks after drivers ignore signs

Officers in Walsall will be carrying out checks at the junction of Hatherton Road and Lichfield Street in the run up to Christmas.

Street in the run up to Christmas.

They say motorists have been ignoring restrictions which came into force earlier this year banning right turns into Lichfield Street from Hatherton Road. In a recent crackdown, 51 penalty tickets were handed out to drivers.

happen.

Mrs James said the Mrs James said the reasons patient flow was so bad at the Manor's A&E department was because it was too small and it took a long time to discharge frail and elderly patients from the

area.
"The department was built for 40,000 atten-

built for 40,000 attendances and we are now seeing 80,000," she said.
"That means the department is very congested and it isn't helped by the fact we have not got a clinical decision unit

got a clinical decision unit.
"The second problem is the availability of beds and discharge complica-tions for elderly and frail patients."

Discharging

The future of Walsall's only drop-in centre for the homeless is looking brighter after the cash-strapped service attracted more than £60,000 in grants to safeguard it for another year.

Trustees of the Glebe Centre launched an appeal 12 months ago after it was left with just two months worth of funding in the kitty putting it at risk of closure. They need£10,000-a-month to cover running costs at the Wednesbury Road base.

The facility is operated by trust Comex and relies on donations and funding from charitable trusts, churches, schools and businesses.

Geoff Owen, vice-chairman of Comex, said bids for £60,000 have been secured to fund key posts including centre manager and the senior alcohol support worker until autumn 2012 and another alcohol support worker until autumn 2012 and another alcohol support worker not autumn 2012 and another alcohol support worker until autumn 2014 and another alcohol support worker not autumn 2015 and another alcohol support worker until autumn 2016, and another alcohol support worker until autumn 2019, and another alcohol support worker until autumn 2010, and another alcohol support worker until autumn 2012, and another alcohol su Discharging

The report that went before health bosses said the delay in discharging elderly patients was "nowhere suitable for them to go" even though they no longer need hospital treatment.

Lengths of stay for emergency admissions to the Elderly Care Team at the Moat Road hospital have increased by 50 per cent over the past two years.

Bosses are currently looking at overhauling the way medication is prescribed and delivered to patients just before they leave hospital.

They say they have found time spent doing this was the top reason patients were delayed from being discharged from the department.

Mrs James is leaving the trust at Christmas and an interim chief will fill the gap.

Look back for the future



Figure skaters line up to put on a show at the frozen arboretum lake 1963



Blanche Clubley, left, Jack Breeze and his mother at The Pheasant Inn, Caldmore.

A graphic designer has produced his sixth calendar showing how people used to live in Walsall.

The calendar for 2011 called Walsall Lives – Remembering the Old Town has been put together by the Country of the Countr

Old Town has been put together by John Griffiths, aged 63, of Dove Hollow, Hednesford, Cannock January's picture show a severely cold winter in 1962 and 1963. In early January 1963 the Arboretum lake froze over to a depth of 6in and ice skating was allowed for the first time in more than 20 years. The picture for March, which is believed to have been taken in 1937, focuses on The Pheasant Inn which used to stand on Windmill Street in Caldmore. Standing on the doorstep

and his mother at The Pheasant Inn, more.

from left to right are Blanche Clubley, Jack Breeze and his mother – the sister of Frances Ford who was the licensee for 39 years.

Mr Griffiths said: This is the sixth calendar in the series and they are always well received.

The calendar is available from Athwal News, Leicester Street, Curio Shop, George Street, Heaven Sent at The Crossing at St Pauls, in Darwall Street, Waterstones, in Park Street, Walsall Leather Museum, in Littleton Street West, and Walsall Lecal History Centre, in Essex Street, priced at £6.99.

Anyone who has old pictures can contact Mr Griffiths on 01543 425398.

Order to combat the yobs

Louts who cause trouble on a notorious Bloxwich estate could be locked up or fined £5,000 as part of new police powers.

Officers have secured a dispersal order for the Mossley estate, which has been plagued by persistent antisocial behaviour for years. The order will come into force on Monday and will run until May 14 next year. It was secured after West Midlands Police and Walsall Council joined forces tackle problems, such as gangs egging buildings and burning trees.

Problems have also included offroad mini-motorbikes and criminal damage centering around Glaston-bury Crescent, Creswell Crescent and Fountains Road.

The new dispersal order will allow

bury Crescent, Creswell Crescent and Fountains Road.

The new dispersal order will allow police officers to remove gangs of two or more young people from the streets between 9pm and 6am. Youngsters aged 16 or under found out and about alone will be taken back to their homes by police officers.

The powers, which can also be used by Police Community Support Officers, come under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003. If someone who has been asked to leave the dispersal order area returns, they can be fined up to £5,000 or face three months behind bars.

Acting Sergeant Tina Dalton, from Bloxwich police station, said the action was taken following complaints from residents about persistent problems with large groups of youths congregating around local businesses and intimidating people in the area.

To report anti-social behaviour, call the police on 0345 113 5000.

Football yob handed ban

A football yob who hurled abuse at opposition fans in Walsall town centre has been banned from attending Saddlers games for five years.

Adrian Barber had already been banned from matches by Walsall FC.
But magistrates in the town have now imposed their own banning order on the 45-year-old, of Bloxwich Road, Leamore.

It comes after unemployed Barber was spotted by police in the town centre shouting and swearing at Tranmere Rovers fans outside Yates's, Darwall Street following a League One game at the Banks's Stadium on October 23.

Mr Jason Corden-Bowen, prosecuting said Mr Barber was seen outside the door of Yates's shouting towards the Tranmere fans.

He was also seen at the rear of Martha's Vineyard, Lichfield Street, shouting at the same group of around 15.

Miss Sophia Ali, defending, said Barber had been out with friends

15.

Miss Sophia Ali, defending, said Barber had been out with friends when a comment was made to his wife which sparked a verbal exchange.

Barber pleaded guilty to using threatening words and behaviour when he appeared before magistrates on November 1.

At Walsall Magistrates Court yesterday he was ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work, given a 12 month community order and was also ordered to pay £85 in costs.

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Schools will be expanded | 264 homes approved

Two oversubscribed Walsall primary schools are set to be expanded as part of £1.2 million plans.

Hillary Primary in Walsall and King Charles Primary in Bentley are increasing admissions to cope with demand. Admissions at Hillary Primary will increase from 60 to 90 pupils and at King Charles from 30 to 45. The plans will be decided this week.

Parade

will get

cameras

Domehawk cameras are to be reinstalled at a shopping parade in Walsall to curb anti-social behaviour.

The move comes after

Charity

Councillors are due to release £1.2 million of funding to extend both of the buildings. The money is coming from the council's Primary Capital Programme.

Children's chief Councillor Rachel Andrew, said: "These pro-posals will enable us to meet an increasing demand for places due to an increase in the number of births and the number of new and planned residential develop-

ments in this central part of the borough." If approved, the changes would take effect from September 1, 2011. The decision-making cabinet meeting will take place this Wednesday when it is expected to approve the plans.

During the meeting, council bosses will also set out their approach for more primary schools across the borough.

Plans for a 264-home development on the site of a former Walsall Council depot have been approved. The estate will be built at the former highways depot in Norfolk Place, Leamore.

The development will have a mixture of two to four bedroom houses and 51 flats. A parking bay in Bloxwich Road will be lost under the plans but a 12-space car park is to be provided following concerns from residents about losing places. It is part of

a land-swap agreement with Wagon Automotive which will see up to 400 council workers relocated to the former Brownhills factory.

Walsall Council leader and vice-chairman of the planning committee Councillor Mike Bird welcomed the employment opportunities expected by the development.

Work on the former Wagon Automotive site in Pelsall Road, Brownhills is under way.

Extra days to give boost to markets

Extra market days will be held in Walsall in the un-up to Christmas in a boost to traders following

run-up to Christmas in a boost to traders tonowing the axing of the town's official lights switch-on. Stallholders will be able to set up in the town centre on Thursdays throughout next month to increase business during the festive season. It comes as they will miss out on extra trade as a spin-off from the celebrity lights switch-on that has

been axed this year. Additional market days have been held in previ ous years and traders welcomed the new opportu

ous years and traders weacomed the new opposed mity.

Walsall Market Traders Association chairman Tony Larner said: 'It is always a good thing to have an extra market day during this busy period. "There is always a rush a month before Christmas and this helps bring people into the town and compliments the shops. But not having the official switch-on is still a big loss as it draws people in," added Mr Larner.

Walsall market will be held around The Bridge and Park Street on December 9, 16 and 23 from 8.30 am to 5pm.

and Park Street on December 38,30am to 5pm.
Stalls will be set up in Willenhall, Bloxwich and Darlaston on December 23 from 9am to 4pm.
Walsall Market usually operates every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday between

Plans to reopen rail line backed

Proposals to reopen a long disused freight line between Walsall and Stourbridge to help revive the region's economic fortunes has won the backing of railway and business chiefs.

A new report by the West Midlands & Chiltern Route Utilisation Strategy has given weight to calls for the track to be reinstated to meet increasing demand for cargo transport as a national priority.

The scheme would see 4,000 lorry loads of asphalt a year and other goods taken off the roads and carried instead by rail from Round Oak, Stourbridge to the freight yard at Bescot railway station, Walsall.

The plan has been welcomed by Wednesbury-based Midland Quarry Products which has campaigned for investment in the track which could connect the Smith Road premises to Bescot.

Midland Quarry Products syckesman David Weeks said: "We move a lot of freight by train and we still welcome any opportunity to get this line reopened."

The Wednesbury site makes asphalt for roads and

Still welcome any opportunity to get this line reopened.

The Wednesbury site makes asphalt for roads and
Bescot is a key freight station. The draft consultation report recommends the re-opening of the line to
allow more freight traffic to travel between Birmingham and the South West.

It also recommends train lengthening of peak
hour services to and from Birmingham.

Tesco staff clean up

An overgrown alleyway in Walsall has been cleaned up thanks to staff from the town's new Tesco Extra store. Residents have been complaining for months about the state of an alleyway in Hall Lane, Walsall Wood. Litter was strewn around it, while overhanging trees and bushes blocked the way. Now, thanks to an 18-strong squad, the alleyway has been given a major facelift. Around 30 to 40 bags full of rubbish were collected and taken away by Walsall's Street Pride.

Christmas quiz for Rosie

A Christmas quiz night in aid of Rosie's Helping Hands will take place later this month.

The event will go ahead on November 26 at Aldridge Social Club. Entry is £2.50 per person with four to six members in a team.

The charity was set up in memory of Aldridge teenager Rosie Ross, who was fatally stabbed as she sunbathed in Birmingham city centre in May 2001. [Call 01922 456398 for details.

New sprinter buses plan styled on USA

social behaviour.
The cameras will be put up at the Rough Hay estate in Darlaston. Local councillor Paul Bott said: "In meetings with residents, they have said they can feel intimidated when going to the shops." for a new super-fast bus network across Walsall and Birmingham have

Futuristic buses similar to ones already used in Las Vegas and Seattle in the USA will hit the streets as part of the new Birm-ingham Sprint scheme. The first The move comes after plans were announced to try to build a mobile youth shelter in nearby George Rose Park. Resi-dents hope it will give youngsters in the area something to do. of four new routes is set to be in place within five years, linking Five Ways in Birmingham to Walsall.

Waisall.

It is hoped the project will coax people out of their cars by offering smoother, quicker journeys on state-of-the-art bendy buses that resemble

A variety evening featuring music, song and bingo will take place to raise money for a new sensory garden at a mursing home in Great Wyrley.

walsallchronicle@ expressandstar.co.uk the region, such as train stations the region, such as train stations, coach stations, university campuses and business parks.

The other routes on the "rapid transit" network will link Ladywood to Perry Barr, Eastside to Quinton and Bartley Green and Birmingham International train station to Ladywood via Sheldon and Chelmsley Wood.

wood via Sheidon and Chelmsley Wood.

The Five Ways to Walsall route will stop at Birmingham Broad Street, Centenary Square, New Street, Moor Street, the new High Speed Rail station, Aston University, Newtown, Perry Barr and Great Barr before stopping at Walsall train station.

Transport authority Centro described the new network as a "very high quality tram-style service" that would offer "more relaxed" journeys.

The final cost of Birmingham Sprint is still being worked out but funding is set to come from Govern-

ment pots such as the Regional Growth Fund, Local Sustainable Trans-port Fund and Major Scheme Fund. Money will also come from deals between the private and public sectors. Birmingham Sprint is part of the wider Vision

The London Underground-style map of the vision network

ment pots such as the Regional Growth Fund, Local Sustainable Transport Fund and Major Scheme Fund. Money will also come from deals between the private and public sectors.

Birmingham Sprint is part of the wider Vision for Movement blueprint, which was unveiled by transport bosses today at the ICC outlining plans for the next 20 years.

Centro chief executiven Geoff Inskip, said: "Working with the city's business community, we have set out a clear vision of the transport schemes that Birmingham needs to enable economic growth and secure its future prosperity. As the transport authority, we give our full support in helping to develop and eliver these initiatives."

The scale Walsall and Birming ham will look like when it is company to the vision five years' time.
Transport bosses have unveiled the Jans today, detailing a project which will crace a "rapid transit" network in five years' time.
Transport bosses have unveiled the Jans today, detailing a project which will crace a "rapid transit" network linking walsall and Birming ham will look like when it is company when it is company with the city will crace a "rapid transit" network linking Walsall and Birming ham will look like when it is company when it is co

can be delivered quickly and at a cost of under £15million. I defy anybody to say that wouldn't be value for money in these tough times." Centro chief executive Geoff Inskip said the scheme will be "more spectacular than anyone can imagine".

Exercises scheme will be "more spectacular than anyone can imagine".
European
He added: "It's not just a concept, it's actually real, It has been delivered in European cities and we have operators who are willing to operate the Sprint. It will become a reality."
The Walsall link will go from Five Ways to Centenary Square, on to Paradise Circus and the Bull Ring shopping centre, to Moor Street station, hen Aston University, through Perry Barr and on to Walsall.
The plan is to introduce a "Smartcard" system, which will be similar to the Oyster card scheme in London, operating a cash-less system where passengers simply scan their cards when they get on a bus.
The funding is set to come from various government pots.

can be delivered quickly and at a cos

Fair to help two causes A Christmas fair will be held for two charities. The event is at 2pm on November 27 at Broad-way United Reformed Church, Walsall. Cash will go to the Interna-tional Rescue Corps and the Samaritans. ALC: NAME OF

Boxing Day shops Music night

lose!

MUSIC night
A flute and harp
concert is taking place at
a Walsall church this
week. The performance
by Willow will be at St
Michael's and All Angels
in Hall Lane, Pelsall, on
November 20 from
7.30pm. Tickets are 25.
Call 01922 691578.

DANIII Y Day Square Shopping
Centre will be opening on Boxing Day
from 10am for the New Year's sales
rush. The Bullring in Birmingham and
the Merry Hill centre in Dudley will
been from 11am, while in the run-up to
confirmed Debenhams would be open
on Boxing Day
from 10am for the New Year's sales
rush. The Bullring in Birmingham and
the Merry Hill centre in Dudley will
been from 12am, while in the run-up to
confirmed Debenhams would be open
on Boxing Day
from 10am for the New Year's sales
rush. The Bullring in Birmingham and
will begin in three weeks, marking the
end of an era.

Work to remove Sister Dora and St
John's wings is due to get under way
late this month and early December.
Call 01922 691578.

Fishing competition

carried out beforehand. Bulldozers are due to start tearing down the Sister Dora block the week beginning November 29. They will be concentrating on St John's the week after.

The buildings have been made redundant following the multimillion pound rebuild of the Manor site, which has been taking place over the last year.

Wyrley. The event will be held at Broad Lane Working Men's Club in Essington on November 26 at 7pm. Tickets cost £4 and all the money raised will go towards Lakeview Nursing Home in Stafford Road. Eer more information For more information call 01922 452620.

How the Sprint might look at the planned Eastside development.

Last of old Manor is set to go

carried out beforehand. Bulldozers are due to start tearing down the Sister Dora block the week beginning November 29. They will be concentrating on St John's the week after.

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thechronicle

Couple return home to find their flat stripped

expressandstar.co.uk

A couple who returned home to find their flat stripped of its TV, washing machine, cooker, boiler and copper piping after leaving it empty for several weeks, have spoken about the devastating affect of the theft.

Sarah Horton had been away from the flat in Mersey Road, Blakenall, Walsall, for more than three weeks as partner Carl Munn recovered at his parents' home in Pelsall from a bout of deep vein thrombosis.

When she returned, their flat had been ransacked and thousands of pounds of goods stolen.

pounds of goods stolen.

The couple were left with no water or heating. The thieves had stolen a gas boiler worth £3,000 and copper piping.

Insured

Raiders also took a 32-inch flat screen TV, worth more than £600, and a washing machine and new cooker worth more than £500. None of the items were insured.

items were insured.

The raid on the second floor flat took place between October 20 and November 8. The couple had been staying away while Mr Munn, 38, recuperated after a spell in Walsall Manor Hospital

after a spell in Walsall Manor Hospital.

Miss Horton, aged 27, who is expecting their first child in March, said: "It has been a massive shock. The place was left in a mess. They had gone through everything and now it just doesn't feel like it's my home."

It is thought the burglars may have smashed a glass pane to get into the complex and then used a crowbar to get into the flat.

Det Sgt Mick Hinton, from Walsall CID, said: "Someone must have seen something as the flat is on the second floor. The equipment would have had to be carried downstairs."

Anyone who saw anything suspicious or who has information is asked to call Ds Hinton on 0345 113 5000.

Students win television award

Walsall College stu dents and staff won the Royal Television Society's Best Promo tional Film Award.

tional Film Award.

Media students
from the supported
learning department
who made Disabled
and Living in Walsall,
were at a ceremony at
the society's Midlands Centre at Birmingham University's
Great Hall recently.

Great Hall recently.

The film was commissioned by Walsall Disability Forum and provides an insight into what it is like for a disabled person to live, work, shop, study and socialise.

The film presentation was made by college students and

tion was made by college students and staff and directed and produced by lecturer Tanya Lewis and media technician Kaush Patel with support from the supporting learners team.

Tanya said: "We are delighted to have wor this award."

this award."

Many people have given us feedback to say how impressed they are with the quality and professionalism of the completed film.

"We are so proud of the hard work our students put into the film and hope it will make a real difference to people with disabilities."



Walsall College students and staff including David Norchi, Gill Taylor Kay Roberts and Tanya Lewis celebrating winning the bes promotional film award in the Royal Television Society Awards.

NHS Help us to manage Walsall demand for our A&E services

Research shows one in three of all people who go to A&E could be treated elsewhere in the community.

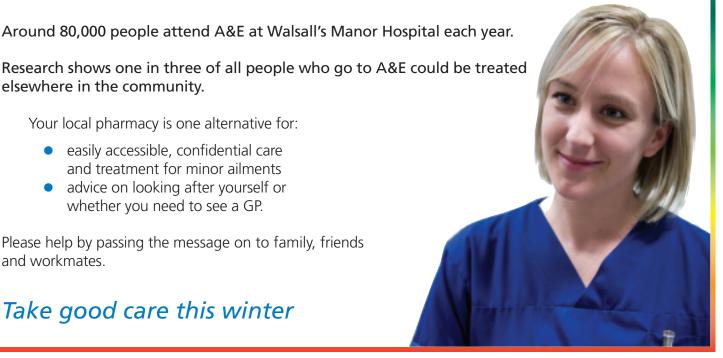
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Take good care this winter



Superman flies in over looking sweaty taunt

A man dressed as Superman for a A man dressed as Superman for a Halloween bash punched another partygoer in the face because he thought he was being taunted for looking "sweaty" in his costume.

Joel Richardson wore the outfit for an evening at a Walsall nightspot. But festivities turned sour when the 23-year-old took offence at a jibe on the dancefloor. He thought resolls were commenting that

took offence at a jibe on the dancefloor. He thought people were commenting that the heavy costume he was wearing was making him sweaty and smelly. Walsall Magistrates Court heard. The clubbers had, in fact, been commenting that someone had broken wind, prosecutors told the hearing.

Mr Van French, prosecuting, said: "Scott Wells was out celebrating Halloween and found himself in Insomnia in the early hours. "He was on the dance floor when another guest at that nightclub passed wind, which led to a comment about it.

guest at that nightcuu passes led to a comment about it. "Mr Wells then found himself being con-fronted by Superman. Superman said to him 'oh yeah?"

"Mr Wells was then punched in the face. He was taken outside where police on patrol were told Superman had just carried out an assault. Door staff were asked to check and found Superman and brought him to the front door."

found Superman and brought him to the front door."

Unemployed Richardson, of Ruskin Street, in West Bromwich, was arrested and taken to a police station.

Doctors found Mr Wells had suffered swelling and bruising and was having difficulty opening his eye. He was forced to take time off work due to his injuries.

In court last week, Richardson, of Ruskin Road, West Bromwich, admitted one count of assault causing actual bodily harm.

The court heard he had drunk at least 10 drinks that night.

Mr Rafe Turner, defending, told JPs: "My client was in quite a heavy suit, the material of which caused him to sweat and there were some comments made that were somewhat derogatory in his direction. He says he has no recollection of what is being suggested that somebody broke wind."

Magistrates ordered Richardson to carry out 50 hours of unpaid work. He must also pay £85 costs and £50 compensation.

Kajol, 10, is packing a punch

notched up a national kickboxing award after taking up the sport only a

taking up the sport only a year ago.
Kajol Patel, aged 10, began training at Saxon Kickboxing last year. Her enthusiasm for the sport grew so much she trained whenever possible at their Digbeth, Castle Vale and Erdington bases.
Now she has been crowned World Kickbox-

Vale and Erdington
bases.

Now she has been
crowned World Kickboxing Association Junior
English Champion for
children aged nine to 11,
weighning in under 30kg.

Coach Alan Shakespeare said: "She's only
trained a year and yet
she's won this award. It's
remarkable. She trains
four or five times a
week."

Mr Shakespeare

week."

Mr Shakespeare
entered Kajol to compete
for the West Midlands
title but she impressed
judges so much they
moved her up to compete
for the national honour.
He added: "She's naturally athletic and the offi-

cials decided she could leapfrog the West Mid-lands stage."



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LETTERS

The audacity of politicians is a EU is not It may be tough at the top but it's constant source of amazement

Dear Sir,

I never seem to be amazed at the nerve and audacity of politicans, be they at national levelor on the local scene.

They give themselves grandoise titles, and try to con the electorate that their cabinet tile means they should receive a high renumeration because of their added responsibilty and the long hours that they put-in.

Firstly no-one forced them to be councillors in the first place; secondly having offered themselves, and been elected they broke with democracy and carved up the committee system of running the council by creat-

cronies. So its no use Councillor Bird and his cronies saying they work

and his cronies saying they work around the clock and have no time for their families for they knew what the duties involved in being a councillor meant.

Clir Bird goes on to say that they are at the helm of a £750 million business and should have their allowances (wages would be more descriptive) brought into line with their counterparts in other regions.

Because councillors, and the electorate in other regions are stupid enough to pay their cabinet over-the-top amounts

does not mean the people, and other councillors, of Walsall have to stand for the three-card-trick. It is not an excuse for ClIr Bird and his cronies to whimper that the Independent Renumeration Panel have recommended their

Panel have recommended their increases.
Given the state of the borough's infrastructure, and the stupid modes of enforcement to the detriment of trade and commerce in the town it appears to many these cabinet members are already grossly overpaid, and if they had any hint of decency they would resign their positions.

J.K. Bullivant,
Walsall.

open or honest

Dear Sir Mr David Clenton (letters October 28) seems to think the EU is an honest and open insti-tute. Even democratic.

tute. Even democratic.
Sadly, this is not the
case. Even our own government is not democratic; otherwise we
would have had a referendum on our membership of the EU a long time
ago. Here is an insight
into the wonderful workinger of the EU.

into the wonderru workings of the EU.

A Miss Nikki Sinclaire assistant to MEP Mike Nattrass UKIP was brutally assaulted by EU security services inside the EU parliament, Strasbourg on January 12, 2005.

12, 2005.

The reason for this attack was because she attempted to unfurl a banner which said No to the EU Constitution.

TV cameras and journalists watched and filmed the attack. What happened? It was all covered up. So if Mr Clenton truly wishes to know what the EU is like, then perhaps he would like to have a talk with Nikki Sinclaire

Mr A Lenton.

money in overseas foreign aid.
The politicians have not consulted the people and I feel now is
the time that the people should
be asked do we give billions to
foreign aid or should we place a
stop to this for the next four
years. What do the people of
Walsall want? Mr A Lenton, UKIP.

just as tough being at the bottom local authorities, it would seem to be more the case of requiring the same irrespective of the extra financial burden.

Dear Sir, It would appear Councillor Bird is trying to add substance to the off quoted, tongue in the cheek remark, it's tough at the

From where have these extraextra responsibilities suddenly materialised?

Surely extra allowance pay ments were included in the origi

ments were included in the origi-nal salary grades.

With reference to the remarks of acheiving parity with other

Disastrous Problems of cutbacks dog mess

Dear Sir
I was reading about the column sent in by Councillor Bill I believe any cuts to our local police will be disastrous and will lead to increases in crime. The people who will lose out will be the law abiding majority. We are also face a cut in defence.

These cut backs should not be a one way street.

a one way street.

Incidentally, I wonder how many of the senior councillors have jobs in either the private or public sector, if they have – to what extent does the 365 days a year 24/7 around the clock council job impact upon these jobs. A further point. If these

column sent in by Councilior Din Madeley. We also have problems with dog mess which starts in Lime Avenue, follows through to Lilac Grove in Bentley then to Bentley We are also face a cut in defence.
We as country are in a ludicrous position of cutting our main
stream of security namely the
defence and our police and giving
money in overseas foreign aid. West School. Like Mr Madelev we have

eported this a good many times.
Our children have to go
arough this mess a lot of times.

Notices were put up, but no difference was made. We have never seen any dog wardens about to catch these

people. So what's the solution?

E Holmes, Bentley Estate, Walsall.

The New Technology

Repairing

duties are so strenuous, and I do not dismiss them lightly, Councillor Bird quickly responded to councillor Ansell's resignation, to stand for a second term as leader of the council.

thechronicle

I sincerely hope Councillor I sincerely hope Councilior Peter Smith's voice of protest will not be the only one in the council chamber, as I feel sure he speaks, on this occasion, for the majority of Walsall taxpayers.

J G Cook,

Walsall.

Up against a wall

Dear Sir, Alan Johnson as Shadow Chan Alan Johnson as Shadow Chan-cellor – what a complete and utter joke. In China those who caused such deficits would be put against a wall and shot – perhaps they have the correct idea.

the correct idea.

Instead what happens in Britain is that the culprits end up on a sofa on Politics Show, Daily Politics, Newsnight and Andrew Marr Show smiling from ear to ear.

How sweet, I don't think.
Ian Payne,
Walsall.

Do you have something to say? Then write to Walsall Chronicle, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton. WV1 1ES or email walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co. uk. Letters are published at the editor's discretion and may be edited. All letters and emails must include a full name, address and contact number.

We have to tighten our belts while councillors considering a pay rise

Our Councillors never cease to amaze me in the wrong way, especially as they are amongst the highest paid amongst those of all the local authorities.

We all have to tighten our belts and large sayings need to be

We all have to tignen our bents and large savings need to be made by our council, threatening council employee jobs and perhaps salary cuts, and also leading to cuts in services to retenovers

Yet despite all this, senior councillors don't reckon this should apply to them and are

planning to give themselves a large pay rise this year and the next four. Their excuse is their large work load.

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selfish and hypercritical some our councillors are.

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Leading the walk

Keen walkers who want to lead a regular walking group are wanted to attend a train-

ing session. Walsall's Walk On programme is looking for volunteers to lead weekly

volunteers to lead weekly health walks. Walk leader training is taking place on Novem-ber 25 at Pheasey Park Farm Children's Centre, in Wimperis Way, Great

Barr.
Once trained volunteers can act as walk leaders.

Charges of fraud

A woman from Walsall has appeared at court accused of illegally claiming more than £37,000 in benefits.

Julie Cross is facing with two charges of failing to notify a change of circumstances and receiving benefits between November 2005 and July 2009.

The 38-year-old of Lowe Avenue, Darlaston, entered no plea at Walsall Magistrates Walsall Magistrates Court yesterday and the case was adjourned until November 22.

Trip to shops

A shopping trip to Manchester has been organised on November 30 to raise money for Walsall Hospice. A coach Walsall Hospice. A coach will pick people up from United Reformed Church, in Blakenall Lane and Lower Farm, Bloxwich, and take them to the Trafford Centre. Book on 01922 479949.

Canalside phase is given go-ahead



Drinkers at the Wharf Bar sit in the shadow of the massive Waterfront development.

The latest multi-million pound phase of

The latest multi-million pound phase of the transformation of Walsall's canalside has been approved by council bosses.

The Waterfront North plans — comprising a 100-bedroom hotel with a restaurant and bar and a temporary 100-space car park — were approved last week.

The long-awaited six-storey hotel, which is believed to be a Premier Inn, will create some 60 jobs in the town. A revamp of the 19th century Wharfingers Cottage is also included as part of the £65 million scheme.

There are hopes of turning it into a hub of retail

E65 million scheme.

There are hopes of turning it into a hub of retail space, offices, leisure, bars and restaurants.

The ambitious proposal was approved at the recent Walsall Council planning meeting. Vice-chairman of the planning committee Councillor Mike Bird welcomed the scheme.

He said: "We want to see it developed. It will bring jobs on the construction side and will be good for the economy. The hotel will be the anchor for the remaining development."

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Walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk
Controversially, the plan includes the removal of
the Wharf Bar car park along Wolverhampton
Street and its popular outdoor seating area to
create as much space as possible for pedestrians.
But a condition has been imposed restricting
developers Urban Splash from creating shops,
banks and building societies there.
The report put before the committee said there
was a danger that the development would draw
trade away from the primary shopping area.
A condition was also imposed limiting leisure provision on the Waterfront site to 20 per cent.
Councillor Bird added: "We believe there should
be some leisure on the site but people are not spending their money on leisure activities when they
need to pay their water and electricity bills."
Work is already under way on the £60m Waterfront South near Charles Street with Cannockbased Jessup building new homes, offices and
shops. A third phase development of the Waterfront
Lex site is also planned.

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Plea for fountain funding

The appeal for donations to finish off Bloxwich fountain is continuing as a community group scrapes together the £500 required. The Friends of Bloxwich

Parks Group is hoping to paint silver emellishments on the 16ft monument which was reinstalled in Promenade

Gardens in August. The fountain was restored and painted malachite green but the Friends want to break up the colour by painting the cherubs' horns and other small details

Autumn fair date

Bargain hunters are invited to indulge their hobby at an autumn fair in Walsall this month.

Brownhills Memorial Hall, which is a registered charity, will host the event on November 20 from 10m 2m and attractions. silver. Anyone who would like to donate can call Kate Frost on 101922 405102.

In this line veel to in Voyeliner 20 will include tombolas, cards, jew-ellery, and knitted goods. Admission will be 50p.

Tory by-election win

The Conservatives maintained their grip on Walsall Council after winning the Rushall-Shelfield by-election by just under 30 votes.

Tory Lorna Rattigan recorded 639 votes – 28 more than the Labour candidate, former councillor and mayor Richard Worrall.

Bill Vaughan of the BNP got 141 votes, Tim Melville of UKIP 90 and Mark Beech from the Official Monster Raving Loony Party 42.

Traditonal Highgate ales making a comeback



Director of Walsall's Highgate Brewery Tony Akinola with the festive barrels.

will be on the shelves this Christmas as Walsall's newly-reopened Highgate Brewery goes from strength to strength.

Strength.

The five-litre barrels of Highgate
Old Ale, Highgate Dark Mild, Davenports Original and Davenports FGL
will only be available from the 112year-old brewery in Sandymount
Road. Company director Tony
Akinola, aged 49, of Kings Heath,
Birmingham, said: "The last time we

did these barrels was in 2008. We

did these barrels was in 2008. We made them to order and sold around 1,000. If it goes well at Christmas we will look to extend it for Easter."

The brewery closed down in June, but last month a consortium took it over, creating 12 jobs. Eleven were filled by former workers.

The barrels will be available from the beginning of December priced at £13.99, anyone who says they heard about them in the Express & Star will get £1 off.

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School faces deficit

A doomed secondary school in Bloxwich would run up a shortfall of up to £400,000 if it remained open into 2012.

up to £400,000 if it remained open into 2012.

Walsall education bosses said the deficit at Sneyd Community School would have to be met from the borough-wide budget, reducing funding for other schools and pupils. There are now just 228 pupils at the school in Vernom Way – down from 899 in 2008 as a result of closure plans. Closure of the school and its eventual transformation are planned.

Walsall Council's decision-making cabinet was expected to bring the closure of Sneyd forward a year to September 1 2011 at a meeting on November 17. The school is then set to be transformed into the country's first University Technology College. If the earlier closure of Sneyd is approved.

the school's Year eight and Year nine pupils would be given a one-off sum of £50 to pay for uniforms for their new schools. Walsall Children's Services is schools. Walsall Children's Services is also considering paying for some pupil's home-to-school travel. Fifteen staff are facing redundancy.

A new report states: "Based upon the current staffing complement and resources available for the 2011/11 academic year, the school should remain solvent until August 31 2011.

"However, this is not the case should the school remain open for a further academic year. The school's budget for the last months, that is April to August 2012, would be based on a maximum of 40 pupils.

"The funding generated by such low pupil numbers could provide a shortfall of up to \$400,000, dependant on how many remained at the school."



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Netball recruits

A growing Walsall netball club is looking for more women to expand its numbers. The council's sport and leisure services have get

leisure services have set up a project called Fit4Net.

It aims to cater for ladies who want to get back into the sport but also for those who wish to keep fit through playing netball.

netball.

Sessions take place on Tuesday evenings between 6 and 7pm at Manor Farm Community Association, in King George's Crescent, Rushall. People can just turn up on the night or for details, call 01902 605500.

Classes to book

A book and independent publishing fair is being held at Walsall's New Art Gallery on November 27.
From 11am expert Guy Begbie will be running a binding workshop and at 2pm, archivist Julian Warren will give a talk about the exhibition called The Cover of a Book is the Beginning of a Journey. Entrance is free.

Card crafts

People can make their own Christmas cards at workshops in Walsall Leather Museum on November 28. The classes at the Littleton Street West venue run from 10.30am to 12.30pm for those aged between five and seven and from 1.30-3.30pm for those between eight and 12.

Club suffers second attack

Vandals have struck twice within days at an under-threat community centre in Walsall, causing more than £1,000 of damage and stealing equipment. Children and volunteers have been left devastated.

Fishing gear used by young-sters has been taken in the latest attack at Green Rivers Commu-nity Association, and the kitchen, toilets and alarm system have been damaged been damaged.

Spokeswoman Caroline Crolley said volunteers and children were devastated at the extent of the damage at the premises off Green Rock Lane, Blakenall. She said anglers at the nearby Wyrley & Essington Canal discovered the first breakin, when fishing tackle and toys were stolen. The following day, the kitchen and toilet block were smashed.

The club is fighting to stay at

its home despite the council taking court action to evict it so it can take over the land.

can take over the land.

"This the last thing we need," said Miss Crolley. "We are a little group and we have enough problems. Parents have phoned us to say the children are really upset about what's happened and they are coming to help us clean up the mess. The committee has appealed for help or for donations of plasterboard.

Pupils gets spicy down Mexico way



Waitress Naomi Ferris with pupils Lucas Hayes and Georgia Burt, both seven.

Schoolchildren studying all things Mexican got to sample a spicy selection of authentic dishes on a trip to a restau-

rant. Youngsters from Short Heath Junior School in Willenhall have been studying the geography, language, culture, history and food of the country.

As part of the project, 60 Year three pupils from the Pennine Way school visited Chiquito in Bentley Mill Way.

They tucked into fajitas, tacos and nachos.

The trip was organised by Year three teachers Sally Tuckley and Pam Triffitt. Mrs Tuckley said: "We wanted to do something to bring the project to life."

Ban for refusal to give sample

A former bus driver from Walsall who failed to provide a breath sample to police has been banned for two years.

Balbir Singh Khera, aged 58, was stopped by police after a resident reported his blue Fiat Bravo swerving across Wing Close, in Reedswood, on October 17.

October 17.

Police spoke to Khera, whose speech was slurred and he needed help to get out of the car, Walsall Magistrates Court heard last week. Khera refused to give a sample of breath at the scene and again

sample of breath at the scene and again later at a police station, Miss Maxine Jarrousse, prosecuting, said.

John Walker, defending, said his client had been driving home after a fight with his wife. Khera, of Poplar Close, in Bentley, pleaded guilty to failing to provide specimen for analysis. Magistrates also fined him £100 with sts and a £15 victim sur



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selling

Orders are flooding in for hand-made crystal stars being sold by Walsall Hospice for the festive season.

The crystal stars are being made to decorate Christmas trees and raise cash for the charity, and will be available packaged in red velvet pouches to be sent to friends and family as

The stars are being made by Tudor Crystal in Stourbridge, and will be sprinkled with diamond dust for an added arkle

They cost £6 plus postage and packing. For details call John Lynch on 07976 917692.

Benefits con man

A man from Walsall aimed £4,617 in bene-

claimed £4,617 in bene-fits after failing to reveal he was in employment, a court heard. Sanakhar Khan did not admit he was working at Skyways Line & Ace Radio. At Walsall Magistrates Court. Khan, aged 28, of

At Walsall Magnstrates Court, Khan, aged 28, of Bentley Lane, admitted two charges of failing to notify a change of circum-stance between July, 2008, and February, 2009. Sentencing was adjourned.

Centre plea

An animal rescue centre in Walsall has launched an appeal for bedding to keep stray dogs warm. Anyone with old blankets should contact Rosedene Animal Rescue at admin@k9sear chuk.com.

Stars are Review on rises next year

Senior councillors in Walsall have maintained they will review aborted allowance increases in a year's time — despite calls for it to be assessed at the same time as council workers pay freeze.

Labour councillors said any decision should be deferred for the duration of the current two-year pay freeze on council staff.

It was revealed last week that pay rises of up to £2,300 would not be implemented. The Tory cabinet members were in line for the extra money.

At a meeting of the Full Council Labour councillors asked for it to be assessed again in two years. But the controlling party said it would be reviewed on a 12-month basis.

Council leader Mike Bird said: "We feel, as an administration, now is not the right time to be looking at increases however

looking at increases however small they be. It is right to revisit this in 12 months and on an annual basis if it is the decision next year to stay with the status

Labour leader Tim Oliver

added: "It would not be fair for the council to be looking at rises as a time when we are facing massive cuts."

massive cuts."

The Independent Renumeration Panel and put foward the suggestions. Under plans the payments would have been increased by £2,300, £1,500 or \$1,000. £1,000 every year for the next four, on top of a basic allowance of more than £10,378.

But the move was criticised as the council is battling to save £65 million, with budget cuts and job losses on the way.

Pupil e-spider tarantula in her trainer

A teenage girl getting ready for a PE lesson at her Walsall school got the shock of her life when she discovered a live tarantula in her shoe.

tarantula in her shoe.
The Year 10 pupil
at Willenhall's St
Thomas More
Catholic School originally thought her 11year-old brother had
played a prank and
hidden a plastic
spider in her trainer.
Thinking it was a
harmless toy, the 15year-old picked it up
but the spider then
started crawling.

started crawling.

started crawling.

The fully-grown
Chilean rose tarantula is now being
looked after by
teacher Caroline
Parsons, who used to
work at Dudley Zoo
specialising in creepy
crawlies. She has
named it Thomas.
She soid, "He hose

She said: "He has been eating non-stop and has spun a web, which is a good sign."

Which is a good sign.

Headteacher Sean
Flynn said: "It is a
mystery as to how it
got into the school.
"We think that it
must have escaped nearby







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Car parts yard boss stops metal theft bid

Three Romanians broke into a car parts firm in the Walsall in a

car parts firm in the Walsall in a bid to steal metal, a court heard. Two of them armed went armed with metal "strips" to defend themselves against the dog which lives there, magistrates were told.

But the three were stopped in their tracks by the owner of FW Compound in Darlaston, who called police at around 11.15pm on October 31. The three were arrested in a police crackdown on rising metal thefts in the borough, which have seen rail cables and brass door handles stolen.

Adrian Ciobanut, aged 26, of Owen Road, Penn Fields, Wolverhampton, Auras Stoica, 27, of the same address and Claudiu Bolboaca, 20, of Lion Road, Edmonton, London, admitted attempted theft when they appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court last week.

They were each given a 12-month condi-

They were each given a 12-month condi-ional discharge and ordered to pay £85

Barking

The men broke into the car parts stock yard looking for metal but business owner Francis Thomas happened to be there at the time and heard the dog barking loudly. Miss Maxine Jarrousse, prosecuting, said: "At that point Mr Thomas said he heard metal jangling from within the compound, and noticed two men, to which he shouted."

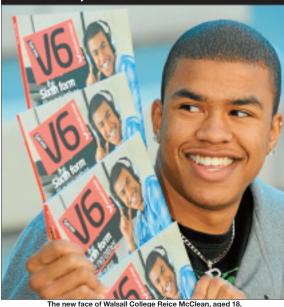
shouted."
Police arrived within minutes, found the men outside and arrested them.
Mr Martin Fawlk, defending, said the attempt was not planned, and the men "had no idea what they were going to do if they had found any parts." He added: "Each of the defendants expresses remorse for their actions."

actions.

Sentencing them chairman of the magistrates Mr Mick Kearns said: "We are concerned in the Walsall area as there seems to be a number of these thefts and attempted thefts for metal."

thetts for metal." Police in the town are visiting every scrapyard in the borough in a crackdown. Crimes have included \$25,000 of copper stolen from a Brownhills firm, £1,000 of brass from a Walsall saddlery and more than 30 manhole covers.

Face it, Riece has it covered



A student has been selected as the first over star of a new glossy guide at Walsall

College.
Reice McClean, aged 18, can be seen by thousands of staff and students on the front of V6 Young Persons' Course Guide.
The guide details sixth form courses and will be available from the college's next open day on November 17 from 4-7pm.
Business student Reice said: "I was

ge Reice McClean, aged 18.

happy to volunteer my services as a model for the course guide. Walsall College is a great place to study and it's extremely exciting to be part of it."

During the open day, prospective students will have the opportunity to obtain information, guidance and support on the best course for them, including a range of part time adult courses beginning in the new year.



thechronicle Sanctuary is in need of a stroke of cluck



Stephen Sankey with sons Michael, left, and Jason

walsallchronicle@

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tuary now rehouses up to 800 a month
and is also home to other animals.
Thirteen poultry farms across the
country deliver chickens to Mr
Sankey, who has rehomed 20,000
since he began. He also started
working with the RSPCA a year ago.
Mr Sankey, his wife Ann, 52, and
sons Jason, 34, and Michael, 33, all
work at the sanctuary, which operates
in his 40ft by 30ft garden. They are
looking for land of at least half-anacre to use.
"There is just no room left at the

looking for land of at least half-an-acre to use.

"There is just no room left at my house, my back garden is like a zoo. I just want a nice piece of land where the animals can live comfortably."

Mr Sankey is on 24-hour alert from the RSPCA for whenever rescued, injured or abandoned birds need rehousing. Anyone with information can call Mr Sankey on 07742 913184.

A sanctuary which rehouses 800 chickens a month and shelters rabbits, guinea pigs, ducks and pigs, is desperately searching for a larger home after being overwhelmed with animals

It is claimed the family-run Chicken Sanctuary in Bloxwich is in "desperate need" of a new home if it is to survive past the middle of next year.

Founder Stephen Sankey said the sanctuary and his dream of opening an urban farm for schoolchildren were in danger of collapsing.

Mr Sankey, aged 56, started rehousing ex-battery chickens at his semi-detached home in Well Lane four years ago.

From a starting point of just three chickens, his back garden-based sanc-

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thechronicle

Council to decide on latest plans

Planning applications submitted to Valsall Council include: Demolition of garages and erection of a bungalow at land off Somerfield Close, rear of 152 Lich-ield Road, Shelfield.

Change of use to car park for Lyndon louse Hotel residents. Development adja-

House Hotel residents. Development adja-cent to public footpath at the land at junc-tion of Town Hill and Upper Rushall Street, Walsall.

Demolish existing detached property and construct new detached four-bedroom dwelling with off-road parking and private rear garden at 87 Skip Lane, Walsall. Fell one sycamore tree and one beech tree at 6 Campbell Close, Walsall.

Time extension on planning application

for the erection of a three-bedroom detached dwelling, two car garage block at 122 Pelsall Road, Walsall.

Replacement clubhouse at Aldridge Rugby Football Club, Bourne Vale, off Rugby Football Club, Double ... Little Hardwick Road, Aldridge.

Single-storey rear extension with pitched roof at 18 Villers Street, Walsall. Ground floor kitchen and lounge

variant. Grant floor bedroom extension, 31 Pavillion Close, Aldridge.
Proposed first floor side extension and loft conversion at 51 Bealeys Lane, Bloxwich.

Time extension of previous application for detached house at 11 Sandbeds Road, Willenhall. Double storey rear

Two-storey side and rear extensi

single-storey side and rear extension 437
West Bromwich Road, Walsall. Single-storey front and side extension at 20 Lincoln Avenue, Willenhall.

Outline application (considering access scale, layout and external appearance) for four one-bedroom flats together with asso-ciated car parking at 85 Drayton Street, Walsall.

waisail.

Kitchen extension and conversion of garage to store and shower room and replacement of flat roof with pitched roof at first floor at 38 Somerset Road, Walsall.

Decision to delay welcome

A Walsall MP has welcomed Manor Hospital's lecision to defer its application for freedom from Government control. Foundation trust tatus could create a two-tatus could create a two-tatus chall by system, David Winnick has claimed.

The Moat Road hospial's bid may not happen ntil 2013.

Bosses had previously said they hoped the bid would be submitted in 2010 but it was deferred while staff moved into the new £174m hospital.

the new £174m hospital.

Mr Winnick, MP for Walsall North, said he had reservations about a foundation trust.

"Though such hospitals will continue to provide all the present facilities free to patients – otherwise it would be a complete undermining of the MPs principle – foundation hospitals give far more authority for hospitals to provide beds and facilities for private patients.

Trophy bonanza for dance divas

Talented pupils at a dance school turned on the heat at a top championship to bring home 52 trophies.

to bring home 52 trophies.

A 16-strong contingent of dancers from The Rhythmics Dance Centre, Cradley Heath, competed at the European Dance Championships held at Pontins, Prestatyn, Wales recently.

roinis, Frestayli, water recently:

Among the winners were Chloe Matthews and Sophie Haynes, both 17, Stephanie Parsons and Emma Hacketts, both 11, Jordan Lenton, and Aimee Jones, both 10.

The Reddall Hill Road studio is celebrating after Chloe, of Walsall, and Sophie, of Dudley Wood, were crowned the tops of rock 'n' roll category winners, the highest award at the championships.

The centre also scooped

The centre also scooped top place in the rock 'n' roll adult and under-12s, sec-tions, under 12s beginners solo freestyle, under-12s pairs.



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thechronicle

Golf site plans going ahead Plans for a multi-million Richards and her husband Mark. There were any locking formulated by operation of the club. Many

pound leisure and tourist complex in Walsall are steam-rolling ahead, with work set to start in February, ultimately leading to the creation of 40 jobs.

leading to the creation of 40 jobs. The £2.8 million transforma-tion of Calderfields Golf and Country Club gained permission from the Secretary of State recently. There had been fears the golf club would go out of busi-ness if the plans were refused. It's run by Alan and Linda Tranter, their daughter Debbie

Richards and her husband Mark. They are now looking forward to building the six log cabin-type structures at the Aldridge Road site, consisting of 20 overnight chalets overlooking the golf course along with a health and fitness centre, including a 20 metre swimming pool, a gym, a dance studio, treatment rooms, a sauna and steam rooms.

Mr Richards said: "These are exciting times for Calderfields."

"The project will be built on unused land and so will cause

very intue disruption to the day operation of the club. Many golf clubs in the Midlands have noticed the natural synergy between golf and fitness and have successfully seen these two areas working hand in hand, I am confident Calderfields will be no different.

"The location of both the leisure centre and the accommodation will offer stunning panoramic views of the golf course situated close to the existing club house."

Tall order for story telling on its way

Youngsters at a primary school in Walsall will soon take delivery of wooden furniture for their new outdoor class-

their new outdoor classroom.

Pupils at Little
Bloxwich C of E Primary
School will soon be able
to enjoy a storytelling
chair, benches, and a
table and chairs.

The furniture is being
made by trainees at
Walsall Housing Group's
Skills Centre.

Around a dozen pupils
from the primary school
paid a trip to the Hollemeadow Avenue centre in
Leamore to see the work
in progress.

The six to 10-year-olds
word in the six to 10-year-olds
word in the viit
and even got involved in
sanding wood for the furniture.

Ellen Taylor, head-

miture.

Ellen Taylor, head-teacher of the Grenfell Road school, said: "The wildlife area at our school has been funded and organised by our parent council which has done an amazing job to raise the money and get the area cleared.

"We will be able to get the chairs and tables 12

"We will be able to get the chairs and tables 12 months before we would if we had had to raise the money ourselves," she added.



Matthew Jackson in a storytelling chair with centre manager John Markin.

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- Free prize draw

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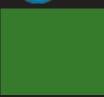




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thechronicle

Pupils walking the walk to school



Mayor Gary Clarke joins the preparatory school pupils on their walking bus.

Mayor Gary Clarke Joins the preparatory school pupils on their walking bus.

More pupils are taking a healthier route to a Walsall school since the launch of a walking bus to the school in Sutton Road.

Since the launch of the Walk to reduce impact of the school run.

Mayor of Walsall Councillor Gary Clarke joined 14 pupils at the official launch of Mayfield Preparatory School's scheme recently.

The scheme is run by a group of parents who volunteered to accompany the children from

Hospice making festive help plea

Acorns Children's Hospice has launched its festive appeal. The Be A Star appeal launched at Walsall's Acorns Children's Hospice, Walstead Road,

Acorns Children's Hospice, Walstead Road, aims to help the charity continue to provide care for 600 children and 800 families by finding more volunteers and donations.

The charity, which has three 10-bedroom hospices in Walsall, Oak Tree Lane, Selly Oak, and Bath Road, Worcester, costs more than £6 million to run each year, and chief executive David Strudley said it had been hit hard by the recession.

Almost 20 jobs were axed last year, and an annual government grant of £900,000 which the charity had been receiving since 2006 will run dry next year. Acorns is hoping health trusts across the West

Midlands will make up the shortfall.

Midlands will make up the shortfall.

But it still relies on voluntary contributions for more than 70 per cent of funding.

Mr Strudley said: "Christmas is a key time of year for us. The season of goodwill means people think more about helping others in need and supporting charities over the festive period. We want people to volunteer their money, time or energy.

"The last couple of years have been incredibly difficult for charities like ours. It was a painful period. Since then we've had to manage with what we've had.

Since then we've have a had.

To find out how to help, call 01564 825091, email Christmas@acorns.org.uk or visit www. acorns.org.uk/christmas

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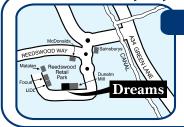


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thechronicle

Child care gripes showing big rise

The number of complaints about children's social services in Walsall rocketed from 86 to 137 in just 12 months, according to the

latest report.

High levels of staff sickness have been blamed for contributing to the

been blamed for contributing to the rise.

A total of 178 issues were highlighted in the 137 complaints. Problems included youngsters unable to contact their social workers and poor staff conduct.

Families disagreeing with decisions was also listed as a factor.

The number of complaints has steadily risen over the years from 70 in 2007/08, 86 in 2008/09 and 137 in 2009/10.

Parents and relatives made the most complaints to Walsall Council in 2009/10, with the figure rising from 54 to 75. However, 22 young people reported problems themselves – up from 19.

High-profile cases such as Baby P and the recession are also said to have contributed to more complaints.

A report to council bosses reads: "The present economic climate may also have contributed towards families feeling more negative about life issues and thus more inclined to complain."

Sickness

Sickness

The biggest number of complaints centered around the looked-after children service, with the figure rising from 29 to 60. The report continues: "The Looked After Children team has reported that there has been a high level of sickness in these teams which is likely to have contributed to an increase in complaints. This factor could also have contributed to complaint response times."

also nave contributed to complaint response times."
But Councillor Rachel Andrew, cabinet member for children's services, said today: "Children, young people, parents and foster carers must be given an opportunity to comment on the services they receive. It's no surprise that we've seen an increase in the number of complaints because we've made it easier for people to do so.

"Since the report was published, there have been considerable improvements to sickness levels."

Christmas fair to help Rosie's charity



Karen Ross, Ryan Elstob and Santa ready for the fair.

Karen Ross, Ryan Elstob and Santa ready for the fair.

A charity Christmas fair will be held in Walsall this month to help raise cash to buy Christmas presents for children in care across the Midlands.

The fair, complete with Santa's Grotto, will take place at the Compass Suites, The Green, Aldridge, on November 21 between 11am and 4pm. It has been organised by Compass Suites general manager Rachel Wilcox in aid of the charity Rosie's Helping Hands. Crafts, decorations, food, cosmetics and skincare suppliers are lined up to offer visitors a wide choice of Christmas gifts.

Creche facilities will be provided by Sarah Elstob, of ABC Childcare, and children will be kept amused with storytelling and art activities. Karen Ross, founder of Rosie's Helping Hands, said: "The fair was a great success last year raising over £1,000 for the charity. This year it will be very poignant as we are currently supporting local voluntary group 4 Steps to a Smile in helping to deliver 3,000 Christmas presents to children in care across the West Midlands."

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Call **0845 113 0680** or go online at www.walsall.nhs.uk/dentists.asp to see dentists in your area.

Full details of exemptions and charges are available on the Department of Health website or website address above.

Norton Aluminium Group Litigation

65 Residents of Norton Canes are in the process of pursuing court laims against Norton Aluminium alleging that they suffer a legal private nuisance relating to the odour, dust and noise they allege they experience from Norton Aluminium's site.

These residents are seeking damages for the nuisance they allege they have experienced in the past; and an injunction to prevent the continuation of the alleged nuisance in the future.

Norton Aluminium deny that their activities constitute an actionable nuisan and strongly dispute the claims on a number of grounds.

The High Court has ordered that all claims are to be considered at the same by way of a Group Litigation Order. All claims must be registered with the Le Solicitors, Hugh James by 4pm on 21 January 2011

Failure to register by this date may mean that it will be difficult for other residents to later advance their claim.

If you would like to pursue a court claim please contact: Hugh James Solicitors 02920 391118 or email at the environmentgroup@hughjames.com.

Registration with Hugh James does not mean that you will automatically become a claimant. Your claim will be investigated by Hugh James and you be advised as to whether or not it will be in your best interests to join the proceedings.

The trial will commence during July 2011 however all claims MUST be registered with Hugh James by 21 January 2011



hydian is coming home

Wagner

However, he does have two favourites – teenager Cher Lloyd, who he reckons has star quality, and singing decorator Matt Cardle.



Rhydian on The X Factor three years ago

The X-Factor is a just and drama in Birmingham and tranning to persis due to to his training in opera and drama in Birmingham rather than The X-Factor.

The X-Factor is a just a bubble, all hype. You need grounding and training to be a success in this career because it only gets harder, "the singer told The Chronicle.

The is just a just a bubble, all hype. You need grounding and training to be a success in this career because it only gets harder," the singer told The Chronicle.

The is just a just a just a bubble, all hype. You need grounding and training to be a success in this career because it only gets harder," the singer told The Chronicle.

The is my form the Worlds, at the NiAon wave:

"The X-Factor is a just a bubble, all hype. You need good grounding and training to be a success in this career because it only gets harder," the singer than the wave is the world in the control of the Clarron and a success in this career because it that this year's crop of X-Factor hopefuls but chooses to be diplomatic: "It's not for me to quash their dreams."

Wagner the alien invasion and takes on a demonic character. He will be appearing alongside Jason Donovan, Atomic Kitten's Liz McClarnon and Justin Hayward, whose Forever Autumn was the big hit from the original 1978 concept album.

The War tour will be visiting several countries and Rhydian, who still regularly visits Birmingham for singing and drama lessons, is relishing his big dramatic role. He has loved musical theatre ever since the days he appeared alongside other students in shows at Birmingham's Crescent Theatre. He went on to study musical theatre at London's Royal Academy of Music.

"I have been offered West End roles, including the same proposed to the students of the students of the same proposed to the students of the same proposed to the same propo

West End roles, includ-ing Joseph, but it is too much of a commitment eight shows a week for a year or more. However, when I am older I would love to play The Phantom."



Rhydian as Parson Nathaniel

Rhydian as Parson Nathaniel.

He will be back in Birming.
ham as Hayley Westenra's guest at her Christmas Wishes Concert at the Symphony Hall 5 to be back at the venue with "the best acoustic in Europe".

He added: "When you see the Symphony Hall from the choir seats beside the organ, it is spectacular."

He will be returning to his adopted home city again next

He will be returning to his adopted home city again next

summer to star in Queen musical We will Rock You at Brimingham Hippodrome (July to August 6).

Rhydian said: "I was originally down to do Cardiff but as best acoustic in Europe".

Rhydian said: "I was originally down to do Cardiff but as beinvolved."

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Leon Burakowski



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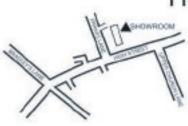
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The church clock at St Michael's in Pelsall village.



The village clock in Pelsall

This week's pictures come from Norman Burton of Pelsall who has taken time to go around snapping some of the many clocks which can be found around the borough.



This renovated clock tells the time in Brownhills.

Snaps of life in the borough

Are you a snazzy snapper, a lord of the lens or diva of the digital print? Think you can do better than these pictures, if you can why not share your snaps of the borough?

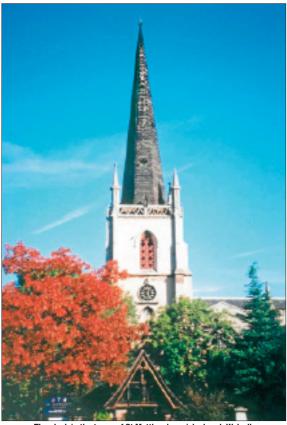
Dorough?

There is no limit on the age or the subject all we ask is that they be as sharp and clear as possible and must be of reasonable quality for publication and of course feature some area or aspect of Walsall and its life.

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shows.

Also we would like to hear about any interesting tales or stories attached to the photograph. Send them in either as a hard copy or electronically and we will do the rest. So get those cameras snapping, dig out those dusty old albums and send them to: Snappers Claim to Frame, Walsall Chronicle, Queen Street, Wolverhampton. WV1 1ES or email them to walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk.



The clock in the tower of St Matthew's parish church Walsall.



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CLOSE TO MAJOR CAR PARK

the pu

Those brothers Grimes keep in limelight

Jedward bandwagon keeps rolling

LOVE them or hate them, Jedward have stubbornly refused to fulfil the predictions of those who suggested their moment of fame would be brief after they paved the way for Wagner by

brief after tirely paved trie way for wagner by being The X Factor act who divided the public. The Irish twins, John and Edwards Grimes, may be famous for being famous – their musical mix of cover versions and bland pop is hardly earth-shattering – but the Planet Jedward bandwagon rolls on to prestigious Birmingham venue the Symphony Hall on Saturday, November 27. The teens with the gravity-defying quiffs

sold out their Irish tour and are likely to be facing a big crowd in Brum. I suspect many will have been attracted by the duo's gauche, immature posturing and won over by their sometimes hilarious TV documented misadventures when they cut the apron strings from mom. It can't be the music . . . can it?

The youngsters' recent appearance on Never Mind The Buzzcocks left one wondering how aware they are that the joke's on them but you can bet they're crying all the way to the bank!





CD reviews - page 38

YOUR EIGHT-PAGE **ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV-VIEWING**





DVD reviews - page 38



Motorhead . . . Lemmy, Mikkey Dee and Phil Campbell

Motorhead drives into town ready to rock

roll it is Motorhead singer and bass player Lemmy.

Over the past four decades few other artists have had such an enduring impact on heavy metal music and, with his 65th birthday approaching on Christmas Eve, Lemmy is rocking harder than ever.

His powerhouse trio (also featuring guitarist Phil Campbell and drummer Mikkey Dee) are in concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Wednesday, November 24.

The band's 27th album Motorizer was released two years ago. Their latest album The World Is Yours is due to be released next month.

Rock fans will also get a chance to see the band he belonged to before Motorhead –

space rockers Hawkwind – at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton on December 8. It's Lemmy's voice that can be heard on their biggest hit, Silver Machine, though lead vocals are now taken by the group's founder, Dave Brock. Lemmy left Hawkwind 35 years ago and one of the last songs he wrote for them, Motorhead, provided the name for his own band.

He features in a new rockumentary DVD about his life, with contributions from celebrity fans that range from Czzy Osbourne to Jarvis Cocker, that will be released in January.

Lemmy is also the star of the new Kronenburg 1664 TV ad, singing a slowed down acoustic version of Motorhead's best known song, Ace of Spades.





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Black Country debut REVIEWS

December 29,
Tickets priced £40 (standing) and £45 (seated balcony) go on general sale on Friday, November 19.
The band feature former Deep Purple and Trapeze singer Hughes alongside top American blues rock guitarist Joe Bonamassa, Dudley-born Jason Bonham (who followed his late father John as drummer with Led Zeppelin) and former Dream Theater keyboardist Derek Sherinian.

Their self-titled debut album has had rave reviews

A show that will get you believin'

CALLING all Gleeks . . . a show designed for fans of cult US TV show Glee brings some 40 songs from the series, ranging from Gold Digger to Vogue, and of course the show's tille song Don't Stop Believin', in a homage which - for copyright reasons - can't actually be Glee. So expect high school kids belting out reworked versions of rock, R & B and show tunes but don't expect the TV characters. It's at Wolverhampton Grand from Monday to Saturday. Meanwhile, real life couple Juliet Mills and Maxwell Cauffield star in Alan Ayck-bourn's comedy Bedroom Farce until its last performance at the Grand this Saturday.

bourn s comedy bedroom rarce until its Saturday night.

That festive feeling comes to Birmingham Hippodrome with Birmingham Royal Ballet Ballet's Cinderella, which opens on Wednesday, November 24. BRB Director David Birntley's new production of the classic fairy tale, with music by Prokoflev, marks the company's 20th year based in Birmingham and is on until December 12.

One nighters at Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre continue with tomorow (Friday), Thank You For The Music, a tribute to the songs of ABBA and The Bee Gees; more nostalgia on Saturday with two and a half hour Fab Four tribute The Magic of The Beatles; on Tuesday

In The Flesh is a tribute to Pink Floyd

including light show.

Birmingham Stage Company bring
Phillip Pullman's children's fantasy The

Birmingham Stage Company bring Phillip Pullman's children's fantasy The Firework Maker's Daughter to the stage at Birmingham Old Hep, in Station Street, until November 28.

Gerald Logan performs Shakespeare's narrative poem the Rape of Lucrece, about the impact of the terrible crime on victim and perpetrator, at the Arena in Wolverhampton tonight (Thursday). Abnormally Funny People, a group of disabled comedians, "bring a token non-disabled person to tick that all important diversity box" at the Arena tomorrow (Friday). Punk, terrorism and epic war movie Apocalypse Now collide in 1977 by Volcano Theatre at the Arena on Tuesday night. The women of ancient Greece invoke a sex ban in ADD's Lysistrata on Wednesday and Thursday at the Arena. This modern interpretation of classic Greek drama is not recommended for under-14s.

Comedian Andrew Lawrence brings his "100 Ugly For TV" tour to Wolverhampton Slade Rooms tonight (Thursday). Comic Paul Sinha, who also happens to be a GP and gay, has a gig at Birmingham Town Hall in association with the Shout Festival on Tuesday.



Birmingham Royal Ballet's Cinderella opens at Birm-ingham Hippodrome

I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue.
Wolverhampton Grand
A VENERABLE comedy institution came to Wolverhampton on
Monday when the crew from Radio 4's 38-year-old spoof panel game
1'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue convened
at the Grand Theatre for a night of
inspired silliness.
The touring version of the radio show,
the tea time favourite of many a commuter, brought one of the most talented
comedy line, use ever the sheet the Grand

the tea time favourite of many a commuter, brought one of the most talented comedy line-ups ever to share the Grand stage, including superbly grumpy chairman Jack Dee in the chair famously long occupied by the late Humphrey Lyttelton, with comedian and crooner Jeremy Hardy, veteran comedy writer Barry Cryer (now available in colour) and ormer Goodies Tim Brooke-Taylor and Clue's originator Graeme Garden. ISHAC is all about with wordplay with a healthy dose of smut, usually regarding the sadly ever absent scorekeeper the lovely Samantha.

The dedicated fans among the full house audience roared their approval for such rounds as the baffling game Mornington Crescent (now alded by sat-nav), Censored Songs in which a buzzer can make the most innocent song sound filthy, Karaoke-Cokey in which the panel try to identify songs played by the audience on kazoo, and Uxbridge English Dictionary finding new meanings for old words... my favourite being Graeme Garden's 'Cannibalistic', a Geordie rocket.

The evening ended as audience and

rocket.

The evening ended as audience and panel joined together on swanee whistles and kazoos for a poignant version of We'll Meet Again. "Like a party in a care home", added Jack.

Leon Burakowski

THANK goodness
Alison Goldfrapp is around
to keep the glitter and
glam in pop music and,
remember, before Gaga
there was Goldfrapp.
Entering the stage from an
inflated tunnel through a sea
of dry ice to the breathy
panting of Voice Thing, she
shimmered and sparkled in a
feathery black and silver
poncho. Her outfit fizze
about her as she faced down
a gale from the wind machine,
which sent her gold curls
twisting like Medusa's locks. It was an inspired, otherworldly look utterly in keeping
with her glitzy blend of disco
and glam rock.
Her partner in Goldfrapp
Will Gregory doesn't do live
but she was superbly supported by her space-age
polyama-clad band, including
keyboards slung like a guitar
and electric violin.
The set leaned heavily upon
new album Head First, which
hasn't quite been the
expected success but it was
apparent fans are starting to
embrace songs like the Fleetwood Mac-ish Dreaming and
the perky Believer. That built
up to a crowd-pleasing big
stomping climax with Ride A
White Horse, Train and a
ecstatic Ooh La La.
Leon Burakowski

tll, Birmingham

Goldfrapp,
O2 Academy,
Birmingham
THANK goodness
Alison Goldfrapp is around

Lee Mack, Going Out, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

A SELECTION of the audience may have felt the brunt of some of Lee
Mack's material, but I'm sure like the rest us they would have gone home
much happier for the experience. On day 107 of nationwide tour, the
cheeky Northern funnyman was on top form throughout a show that
seemed to last longer than its hour-and-a-half duration.
The set began with Mack locking an audience member in a box on
stage. "I just didn't like the look of him," he joked. It ended with questions and answer session Cockney rhyming slang, drinking - "I joined
my local wine club. We meet in the park every morning at 9" and the
French -"I don't trust them, they put C in the hot tap" were among the
topics covered, as well as advertising hard sell, Michael Jackson and
sign language. Needless to say, he also took a poke at the Brummie
accent.

West Country comic Noel Britten had provided the warm-up.

Mark Shipp

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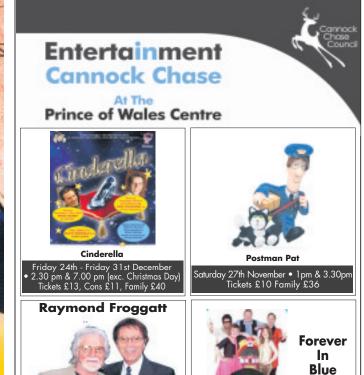
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DVD REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

Guests who get drunk, fall asleep or raid kitchen

Come Dine With Me:
The Tasty Bits (15)
The dinner party show has become cult viewing for many and however outrageous the behaviour of the guests - whether members of the public or celebs - the real star of the show is the droll commentary by narrator Dave Lamb.
This DVD features around half an hour of never-before-seen scenes (a little nudity) but they are not that shocking, the makers kept the best bits in.
So we get guests getting drunk and falling asleep at the table or tumbling off their chairs, a host of culinary crimes, and guests so hungry they raid the kitchen to make their own dinner.
As regards the celebrities, Kim Wood-

As regards the celebrities, Kim Wood-burn, of How Clean Is Your House, gets burn, of How Clean Is Your House, gets spectacularly drunk on vodka, actress Lesley Joseph gets fits of giggles when her lamb dinner is a disaster and Michael Barrymore's anarchic buffoonery crosses the line into outright vandalism.

Collapse (Exempt)
This thought-provoking documentary puts you in the company of American radical thinker Michael Ruppert for more

Former LA policeman Ruppert reckons our society's dependence on oil will bring ruin upon us all within a decade or so, and that the economic depression which he seems to have predicted - is

just the beginning.
If you believe Ruppert, you had best learn to be a carpenter and farmer fast, because the lights are going to go out, money will be worthless and food is going to become scarce.

It's a talking head documentary, with some stock footage, in which Ruppert is sittin in what appears to be a bunker, chain-smoking and sometimes doing his

chain-smoking and sometimes doing his credibility no good by bursting into tears or barely restraining his four-letter rage at the powers that rule the world. He also darkly hints about mysterious deaths in the US military and a break-in at his office in which his computers were

Its Office if which its compacts was trashed.
Ruppert seems to take a perverse pride in his belief that he had been personally targeted by the White House during George W Bush's presidency.
He may have fascinated film maker Chris Smith with his apocalyptic vision



Joan Rivers - showing her tender side

but I remained unconvinced by Ruppert's alarming predictions. However, his ideas are certainly interesting... and worrying.

Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work

[Exempt]

Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work

[Exempt]

This documentary of a year in the life of veteran queen of comedy Joan Rivers starts with the comedienne close-up without her facade of make-up. It makes the film's intention clear, to show the real Joan. And it probably does. The expletive-using septuagenarian is revealed as a workaholic, driven by the fear of failure and haunted by the sense that comedy is second best to her true love, acting.

She is also wickedly funny on stage and brutal in her dealing with a heckler. There are two very poignant scenes where we (apparently) see the real woman behind the faceliffs and carefully coffured hair, in a tender moment with her grandson and when the tough cookie sobs after sacking a member of her team, an old friend, who let her down once too often. She still sacked him though.

There are lots of extras on the DVD including interviews.

CD REVIEWS

Soulful Duffy blends modern with retro for her second album

Duffy - Endlessly
Snowdonia's soul stunner
Duffy returns with a second
album that has an American
sheen but finds her distinctive
soulful croak preserved. Her new
team includes New York hip hop
funkers The Roots and veteran
American songwriter Albert
Hammond (who penned Hollies
hit The Air That I Breathe). The
result is an album that lives up to result is an album that lives up to result is an album that lives up to ber massive hit debut Rockferry, blending retro elements with modern R&F/opp production techniques. The ballads Don't Forsake Me and Too Hurt To Dance will appeal to those who enjoy Duffy when she's at her most old fashioned and Girl finds the Welsh songstress in groovy. Sandle Shaw-ish 60s mode. The semi-acoustic title track introduces a slurred bluesy edge to her vocal, whereas Love Struck

and Well Well Well have a more contemporary pop feel. Out November 29.

Nadine - Insatiable
Often considered the best
vocalist in Girls Aloud, Nadine
Coyle has made a bad false start

Coyle has made a bad false start to her solo career with this weedy, bland debut album which doesn't make the most of her voice. Even the best tracks probably wouldn't have made it onto Cheryl Cole's album. Everything seems wrong, from the half-hearted warbling to odd moments, like when she seems to go missing half way through first track, the wanna-be club anthem Runnin'. Maybe she made a mistake by writing her own songs, maybe with the production team, though they include some people with big include some people with big successes to their credit. But

by Leon Burakowski



Duffv's follow-up album Endlessly blends thenew with the old

Insatiable should have been dumped and Nadine directed back to the drawing board. This is one turkey that will still be left in the shops at Christmas.

Selena Gomez & The Scene - A Year Without Rain The Disney princess follows her million-selling debut Kiss And Tell with a better set of perky And Tell with a better set of perky pop/rock tracks and upbeat dance numbers. Featuring the hit Round And Round, it is slickly produced for the star from Disney Channel's The Wizards of Waverley Place. The teenager is set to become one of the faces of 2011 with the release of the films Monte Carlo and Ramona & Beezus. Her album has that mass produced feel but professionally delivers and her voice is pitched somewhere between Britney and Kylie.

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Semi is in prime spot off the Sutton Road

being sought for a well-presented and extended threebedroomed semi-detached house in a prime Walsall location.

Number 55 Daisybank Crescent, just off Sutton Road, has gas central

heating, double glazing, a dining room, conservatory, garage, ample off-road parking and rear garden. Well situated for local amenities and schools, this family home has good-sized living accommodation and is being mar-keted through Henderson Hynes estate

agents.

An enclosed porch with a timber double glazed front door leads into a reception hall with a laminate floor and downstairs WC.

with a laminate into all the Attractive The 21ft 2in x 10ft 5in lounge/dining room has ceiling roses and an attractive feature fireplace with an inset living flame effect gas fire.

In the L-shaped fitted breakfast kitchen, there's a range of matching wall and base units, rolled-edge worksurfaces, a one-and-a-half bowl stainless steel sink and drainer

with mixer tap, gas cooker point and extractor hood, space for a fridge and sepa-rate freezer, plumbing for a washing machine and dishwasher and ceramic tiled machine and dishwasher and ceramic tiled flooring. A sliding patio door leads to a conservatory with a laminate floor and French doors opening onto the rear garden. Upstains, there are three bedrooms, two with fitted wardrobes, and a stylish bathroom featuring a newly fitted suite.

Parking

This includes a large walk-in shower, WC, vanity wash basin, heated towel rail and ceramic tiled walls and floor.

The property is approached via a land-scaped shrubbed foregarden and block-paved driveway offering off-road parking for several vehicles and leading to a

To the rear, the enclosed and beautifully maintained garden includes a lawn, trees and shrubs, gravelled and barked areas shed and a raised decked patio with covered seating area and brick-built barbe-

cue.
For more information or to arrange a viewing, contact 01922 627100.



This semi-detached at number 55 Daisybank Crescent is on the market for offers in the region of £212,000 with Henderson Hynes



The kitchen has been refitted with a range of stylish units and a tiled floor.

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Lounge

Fitted Kitchen

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drooms neeted and has the added bonus of a garage and ample parking. Stilly No Upward Chain heated and has the added b

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This well presented, traditional style semi detached property is offered for sale with no

upward chain. With three good size bedrooms the property is considered ideal for first time buyers. £119,950



WEDNESBURY HOBS ROAD ser in a bedro

ned property available with ward chain. With three

ms and two re rooms the property affords off road parking for several £119,950



Darlaston



DARLASTON

As Bell STREET
This modern-style four bedroom
deteched home, conveniently
situated close to
Darlaston lown centre, local
Darlaston systems

44 Sell STREET
menities a
menities a
menities a
dea for th
purchaser.
£149,950 spacious house is considered ideal for the family



WEDNESBURY

house
★ Ideal first-time purchase
★ Fitted kitchen
★ First floor bathroom and





This two bedroom, traditional style mid terraced home is offered for sale with no upward for sale with no upward servers.





WEDNESBURY

WATERSIDE AVENUE

accommodation in a very popular and much request spacious location. £235,000



WEDNESBURY CHESTNUT ROAD

£170,000

★ Re-fitted kitchen and bathroom ★ South facing well established rec

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£189,995



WEDNESBURY

36 ELWELL STREET

- - garden ances ★ Viewings via Wednesbury office £164,950



WEDNESBURY

OLDBURY STREET STAMP DIITY EXEMPT IN DETACHED - GREAT VALUE

WEDNESHIRY HP TO FOR MONEY!!! BOOK A £150,000 - A THREE BED VIEWING TODAY £149,995

WEDNESBURY

10 OLDBURY STREET from central heating and double glazing and briefly comprises of: reception hall, dining kitchen, family bathroom, front and rear

nefits garde £149,950



WEDNESBURY HOLDEN ROAD

- * Iwo reception rooms

 * Lovely large garden

 * Large garage to the fore.

 * Viewings via Wednesbury office
 £144,950



MILL STREET

glazing



WEDNESBURY

d on a glazing and an int



young professionals, being ideally located for occess to the motorway network at Junction 9 of M6. The occommodation benefits from maj





WEDNESBURY



no iraamonal-style two bedroom sem detached property is situated in a quiet cul de sac within the popular Golf Links development. Havina

30 YEW TREE LANE
bedroom semi
stleuted in a
street in the popular
occommodation and a blank
commodation and a blank
commos thought ideal for first
time buyers
£115,000



- - ** Sumptuous first floor bathroom
 nd ** Ideal for first time buyers
 ** Viewings via Wednesbury office
 £109,950









- RICHARDS STREET





£94,950

£90,000

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01922 615222



FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

(subject to prior sale and conditions) To be held at The Crossing at St. Pauls, Darwall Street, Walsall on Wednesday 8th December 2010 At 6.00 pm precisely

LOT 1 185 Walstead Road, Walsall



A most appealing traditional detached house in this popular residential location which has been extended and modernised to offer attractive and well maintained living accommodation. Having gas central heating and uPVC double glazing the property includes: Porch, Hall, Lounge opening to Dining Room, Extended Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Attractive Bathroom, Garage, Small Rear Garden and Fore garden with Parking.

Situated on the popular and much noted Park Hall Estate

in South Walsall this two/three

bedroom detached bungalow residence offers a tremendous degree of further potential

and offers ease of access to

and others ease of access to town centre, motorways and all other local amenities. Offering gas fired central heating and some double

glazing and some double glazing the property briefly comprises: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room/Bedroom Three,

Two Further Bedrooms, Kitchen, Sun Room. Outside: Fore, Side and Rear Gardens.

GUIDE PRICE \$110,000 - \$120,000 Viewings Saturdays and Wednesday 17th November and Tuesday 7th December at 11.45am

LOT 4

10 Canning Close, Walsall

LOT 2 60 Friezland Lane, Brownhills



This traditionally styled end terraced residence is being offered as an investment. opportunity with the property let on a Regulated Tenancy at £71.00 per week. The part gas centrally heated and part double glazed accommodation comprises: Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Fore and Rear Gardens, Off Street Parking.

GUIDE PRICE \$59,000 - \$64,000 Viewing by courtesy of the tenant through

Auctioneers on 01922 615 222

Flat 94 Alderley Crescent, Walsall



A well maintained two bedroom second floor flat situated in this convenient residential location within a short distance of town centre, motorway access and local amenities. Offering uPVC double glazing the property briefly comprises: Reception Hall, Useful Study Airing Cupboard, Lounge, Refitted Breakfast Kitchen. Tiled Bathroom with separate WC, Two Bedrooms, Outside Communal Garden. Ideal for INVESTMENT.

With tremendous views to

both front and rear this

traditionally styled semi-

detached residence offers scope for improvement and

comprises of the following

accommodation: Reception

Hall, Lounge, Dining Area, Breakfast Kitchen, Sun Room, Utility with WC,

Three Bedrooms, Bathroom

Off Street Parking, Fore and

part centrally heated and

part double glazed

Rear Gardens.

GUIDE PRICE \$47.500 - \$52.500 Viewing by appointment through Auctioneers on 01922 615 222

LOT 5 28 Ogley Hay Road, Chasetown

GUIDE PRICE \$110,000 - \$120,000

Viewings Saturdays and Wednesday 17th November and Tuesday 7th December at 10.00am

GUIDE PRICE \$165,000 - \$175,000 Viewings Saturdays and Wednesday 17th November and Tuesday 7th December at 12.15pm



In need of total modernisation this pair of three bedroom semidetached houses are ideal for a developer and are available to cash purchasers only. Briefly comprises: Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms. Bathroom, Fore and Rear

GUIDE PRICE \$30,000 - \$40,000

LOT 6 35 & 37 Flaxhall Street, Walsall



There will be no internal viewings of these properties for Health & Safety reasons

LOT 7 93 Whetstone Lane, Aldridge



In need of modernisation. this traditional detached residence situated close to Aldridge Village and offers the following gas centrally heated accommodation: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms. Bathroom, Garage, Fore and Rear Gardens

GUIDE PRICE \$150,000 - \$170,000 s Saturdays and Wednesday 17th liber and Tuesday 7th December at 11.15am

LOT 8 41 Raleigh Street, Walsall



In need of complete modernisation and improvement, this Victorian midterraced property comprises: Lounge Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom. Three Bedrooms, Fore and Rear

GUIDE PRICE \$60,000 - \$70,000 Viewings Saturdays and Wednesday 17th November and Tuesday 7th December at 12.45pm

LOT 9 47 Stonnall Road, Aldridge



Set on a superb plot amounting to some 2/3 of an acre. affording stunning views across open fields, this gem of a property offers a unique opportunity for the discerning purchaser. In need of complete modernisation throughout, the property offers deceptively spacious well planned accommodation enjoying many of its original features, internal and external viewing is essential to appreciate its scope and appeal and comprises: Porch, Impressive Reception Hall, three excellent Reception Rooms, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility, 2 Large Pantries, Downstairs WC, 4 Large Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Large Tandem Garage

GUIDE PRICE \$400,000 - \$450,000 Viewings Saturdays and Wednesday 17th November and Tuesday 7th December at 10.30am

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Churston Close

- **Turnberry Estate** House
- Porch Entrance Hall
- Lounge
 Dining Room
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Single Garage

£220,000



Bealeys Lane

- Three Bathrooms
 50% STAMP DUTY



Bloxwich Road

- - Dining Room
 Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
 Rear Garden
 Off Road Parking
 NO UPWARD CHAIN

£169,950



Old Hall Court Aldridge

- Easy reach of Junction 7 of the M6

£184,950



Buttermere Grove Willenhall

- Modernised Throughtout
- ●Re-Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- ●Through Lounge & Conservatory ● Integral Garage●Parking to
- Front ●Popular Coppice Farm Estate

£149,950



Goscote Road

- Blocked Paved Drive with Gated Large Lounge
 Garage and Off
 Road Parking
- Offers in the Region of £155,500





Cherry Tree Avenue

- Double Glazing
 Electric Heating
 Off Road Parking and Garage
- NO UPWARD CHAIN £118,000



Field Road

- Bloxwich
- Family Home opportunity

- Garage & Car Parking Space to Front
 Rear Garden
 Downstairs W.C.
 - £129,950



Ashburn Grove Willenhall

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge● Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Entrance Hall
- Front & Rear Gardens

● Driveway ● Off Road Parking £129,950



Buxton Close

 Double Glazing & Front & Rear Gas Central Heating Gardens Offers in the Region of £114,950



Tintern Crescent

- - Stand Alone Garage
 NO UPWARD
 CHAIN Offers in the Region of £98,950



Samuel Street Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Through Lounge
- In need of modernisation
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Driveway with Off Road Parking
- No Upward Chain

£119,950



Field Road

- Bloxwich
- Two Bedroom End 10.
 New Build 10 years NHBC warranty
- First time buy / Investor opportunity Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Applia
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Buyer Incentives Available
 Two Car Parking Spaces to Front

 ■ Rear Garden Downstairs W.C. £109,950



Bloxwich Road

- Three Bed
 Terrace Property
 - - Through Lounge
 - Family Bathroom £96.950

Church Place



- Three Bedroom End of Terrace
- Front & Rear
- Central Heating

 Secured Parking
 to Rear
 Viewing Highly



Leckie Road

- Walsall Much Improved Three Bed
- Property
- Lounge Kitchen
- Bathroom Rear Garden
- Front Driveway/Off Road Parking





Chantry Avenue

- Blakenall Three Bed Semi-Detached
- Lounge with Feature Fireplace

House

 Kitchen/Downstairs WC Bathroom

Front & Rear Gardens

Close to local shops & schools











£69,000 **Essex Street**

£84.950





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●Three Bedroom End Terrace ●Two Reception rooms ●Fitted Kitchen●Family Bathroom ●Front and Rear Gardens ●Double Glazing/Gas Central Heating No Upward Chain

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kitchen, downstairs bathroom/wc, 2 bedrooms and rear garden in freed on sur OFFERS OVER: Viewing: 0121 505 3533



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/illenhall averners Close

Wednesbury Yew Tree Lane

rooms, family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking to to OFFERS AROUND: \$84,950 Viewing: 01902 633323

Dedicoms, re-fitted shower room, block paired driveway, garage and enclosed rear gard OFFERS AROUND: £127,995 Viewing: 01902 633323















OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£89,995**



NEW





































OFFERS AROUND: \$60,000 Viewing: 01902 633323



tory, two bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, front driveway and rear garden.

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£114,995











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 In need of some Modernisation
 Gas Central Heating
 Entrance Hall/Stairs, Two Reception

Rooms
Mitchen, Three Bedrooms
Bathroom/WC, Side Carport
Block Paved Driveway
Offers in The Region of £134,950



- Willenhall
- A larger style interwar semi-detached house
 Lounge, rear dining room/kitchen
 Lobby/WC, utility & converted
 garage/workshop
 Four bedrooms, each with built in wardrobes
 Converted loft room
 Parking to front & rear
 Landscaped gardens
 Viewing Essential

- Offers In The Region Of £239,950



Reedly Road Sneyd Park, Willenhall

- Toom graze, rear dining kitchen (re-fitted), exteno room
 Three bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom/WC
 Carport, detached garage, enclosed rear garden
 NO UPWARD CHAIN
 Must Viewel!

£149.950



- Coppice Farm, Willenhall
 An attractively situated semi- detathced
 Gas centrally heated and uPVC double
 glazed accommodation
- glazed accommodation Lounge, extended dining room, fitted kitchen Three bedrooms, family bathroom/WC Single car garage, driveway Easily maintained gardens Open aspect to the front Viewing Essential

- Offers In The Region Of £138,950



Andrew drive Willenhall

- A much improved & re-fitted semidetached bungalow
 Gas central heating & double glazing
- Spacious Lounge
 Re-fitted kitchen
 Two bod

- Detached garage
 Viewing Essential
 Offers In The Region Of £124,950



Sauires Grove

- Built less than 2 years ago, to good quality
 specifications
- specifications

 Just one of six units in a purpose built three store block
- The property forms part of a sought after development Lounge, breakfast kitchen, two good sized bedrooms

 Master bedroom

Priced to Sell at £85,950



KingFisher Court

- Willenhall
 A compact ground floor apartment
 Situated in a modern purpose built block
 An Ideal first lime buy or investment apportunity
 Gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed
 One double bedroom, bathroom/VVC
 Large through lounge and open plan kitchenette
 Parking space and communal gardens
 Long leasehold
 Viewing Essential

- Offers In The Region Of £79,995



Argyll Court

- Argyll Court
 Willenhall

 An immaculatey presented ground floor
 apartment
 Gas centrally heated and uPVC double
 glazed
 A good sized lounge/kitchen
 One double bedroom and spacious
 bathroom/WC
 Allocated secure parking to the rear
 Long Lessehold

- Offers in THe Region of £74,950



Tameside Close, Willenhall

- Large open plan lounge/dining room/kitchen
- 2 good sized bedrooms, main bathroom
- Private enclosed rear garden Garage and driveway parking for two vehicles
- NO LIPWARD CHAINIIII Offers in The regon of £59,950



PROVIDENCE LANE

- Totally re-furbished Victorian End Town
- House

 Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating Brand New Kitchen and Bathroom

- Carpeted Throughout £480 pcm UNFURNISHED SORRY NO DSS, PETS OR SMOKERS

WALSALL ROAD, NORTON CANES, CANNOCK

TRADITIONAL THREE BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY

Potential building plot (subject to planning permission own enquiries to be made)

permission own enquirie

Majority double glazing

Central bootin-

Offers in The Region of £89,950

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ST MATTHEWS CLOSE, PELSALL, WALSALL



- Loung

 Kitchen

 Dining room

 Three bedrooms

 Bothroom

 Fore/fear garden Garage

 NO UPWARD CHAIN

 C114,995 OFFI £114,995 OFFERS

SHAWS LANE, GREAT WYRLEY, WALSALL



- raditional three bedroom detached dividual character property Gas central heating & part double glazing tining room, lounge
-, rounge utility Study Family bathroom d garage, basement I rear gardens
- - £239,995

FORDBROOK LANE, PELSALL

£144,995

SCHOOL STREET, SHELFIELD, WALSALL

THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED

Breakfast Kilchen
Lounge
Utility room
Three bedrooms Bathroom
Rear garden
Off road parking

Central heating • Double glazing Breakfast kitchen



- TRADITIONAL THREE BEDROOM PROPERTY

- mujority double glazing
 Open plan through lounge
 Gallery kitchen
 Ground floor w/c
 Family bathroom
 Garage
 Gas central heating
 Open plan dining room
 Utility room
 Three bedrooms
 - £184,995



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SILVER BIRCH ROAD, NORTON CANES, CANNOCK



- TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY
- Part double glazingCentral heating
- LoungeKitchen
- Bathroom Fore and rear gardens
- Off road parking £110,000 OFFERS

TREVITT PLACE, WHEATON ASTON, STAFFORD

REE BEDROM SEMI DETACHED COTTAGE YLE PROPERTY

- Solid fuel heating system
 Lounge © Open plan kitchen
 Bathroom © Utility room
 Part double glazing
 Open plan dining room
 Three bedrooms
- - £179,995

£450,000 OFFERS EAGLE CLOSE, CHESLYN HAY, WALSALL

lajoning tooloo g.—
entral heating
ounge/dining room • Kitchen
oround floor W.C. • Utility room
alathroom • Separate W.C.
arge workshop • Rear open aspect views
two altached separate garages



THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED

- PERTY
 Lentral heaing
 Dining room Kitchen
 Shower room
- ower room
 conservatory Alarm system
 couble glazing Through lounge
- - £164,995





For further information telephone: 08445 44 88 44 www.debraballhomes.co.uk





Home of Property



With a refitted kitchen, 173 Foxdale is on the market for around £64,950

An ideal apartment for first time buyers

around £64,950.

It has the added benefit of no upward chain and in more detail the interior comprises the following:

From the secure communal

entrance door and hall, access leads to a entrance door with hall.

Here there is an airing cupboard with wall-mounted intercom and for more detail.

This well presented, modern style, ground floor flat at number 173 Foxdale Drive, may be of particular interest to first time buyers.

It is located in a popular residential area of Brierley Hill will uPVC double-glazing, a communal entrance and hall, private hall, lounge, re-fitted kitchen and bathroom for offers around £64,950.

It has the added benefit of no washing machine, tiled splashbacks.

with mixer tap, plumbing for a washing machine, tiled splashbacks, space for a cooker, extractor and spotlights.

Viewing is by arrangement through the Brierley Hill office, visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk for more information or call 01384 265265



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VACANT POSSESSION

ACAINT FOSEE: ACAINT FOOLESTON bungalow omprising entrance lobby, recepon hall, lounge, kitchen/breakfast rea/conservatory, three bedrooms athroom, possible garage space, ktensive off road parking, fully



2 HOLLIES AVENUE. CANNOCK FREEHOLD WITH



68 CHURCH STREET, CHADSMOOR FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

Mid terraced nouse comprising so ting room, lobby, living room, kitchen, refitted shower room, landing, three bedrooms, fully dou len to rear, possible garage space.

28 HEATH ACRES.



CHADSMOOR FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION



24 CHARLES COTTON STREET, STAFFORD

WEDNESBURY FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION



FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION



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AUCTION

MONDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2010

7 pm Prompt At The Premier Suite Bar Sport 1st Floor The Danilo **High Green** Cannock, Staffs

AUCTION VIEWING TIMES

ADDRESS	WEDNESDAY 17th, 24th November	SATURDAY 20th, 27th November
117a Edward Street, Broomhill, Cannock	10.00 am	10.00 am
68 Church Street, Chadsmoor, Cannock	10.30 am	10.30 am
80 Church Street, Chadsmoor, Cannock	10.50 am	10.50 am
10 Cannock Road, Blackfords, Cannock	11.10 am	11.10 am
11 Cannock Road, Blackfords, Cannock	11.30 am	11.30 am
2 Hollies Avenue, Cannock	12.00 noon	12.00 noon
64 Allport Road, Cannock	12.30 pm	12.30 pm
28 Heath Acres, Wednesbury	1.30 pm	1.30 pm
24, Charles Cotton Street, Stafford	2.30 pm	2.30 pm

asurements given are approximate and for guidance purposes or sful Purchasers will be required to provide proof of Identity and Addres



19 Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, Staffordshire. WS11 1DG

Home of Property

Strong interest in bolt-holes up for sale in **West Country**

Homebuyers' interest in a smart twobedroom flat overlooking Torquay, which goes under the hammer later this mouth with a guide price of just £60,000, has been predictably strong.

At that level, owners in pricier corners of the country might be tempted to sell up to unlock money in their current home for a more lavish retirement.

Angus Donald at Countrywide Property Auctions says: "We have certainly had lots of interest in this property. The owners wants to indicate their determination to find a buyer, so it could fetch 10-20 per cent above the guide.

"But even at that level, most people would con-

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sider it a pretty good investment.

"There have been lots of flats for sale in Torquay, which may have affected

values."

In the middle of November, when the tourists have gone home, there is a good prospect that other properties in the sale (Redruth November 17, Plymouth November 18) will provide bargain buys too.

For instance, keen surfers will love the idea of a studio flat or "surf pod"

**November 19 (State 1) (State 2) (State 2) (State 3) (State 3

the idea of a studio flat or "surf pod" close to the beach at Woolacombe, Provon; the guide is £50,000-plus.

might also chase the Old Methodist chapel at East Worlington, Crediton, which includes plans for a conversion to a four-bedroom home with views of both Dartmoor and Exmoor.

ne idea of a studio flat or "surf pod" lose to the beach at Woolacombe, levon; the guide is £50,000-plus.

Small developers with some cash countrypropertyauctions.co.uk

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PVC Double Glazin unge ● Dining Ro

- Breaktast Autonen with Separate Util

 Master En-suite Family Bathroon
 Front and rear gardens Driveway G

 Offers around \$214,995



Central Heating & UPVC Double Glazing ● Hall

ounge/Dining Room ● Modern Fitted K Newly Fitted Upstairs Bathroom ● Driv Garage ● Attractive Fore and Rear Gan Offer around \$135,000



HAWTHORNE ROAD, DELVES Beautifully Presen CH & Part DG ● I d Three Bed Semi ception Hall ● Loung

Dining Kitchen Downstairs W.C
 Upstairs Bathroom Driveway
 Front and Rear Gardens
 Offers around £118,950



Keepers Gate

2 Bed



● Bathroom ● Communal Gardens Offers around £103,500 RENTAL PROPERTIES



● Fitted Kitchen ● Downstairs Shower Room

Offers around \$112,950

SOUTH WALSALL BIRMINGHAM RD WILLENHALL TAMEBRIDGE Skip Lane 3 Bed Modernised Semi

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Terrace

\$430 PCM

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TOWN CENTRE Waterfront Way 2 Bed Apartment \$475 PCM

SILVERDALE PARK EST. Pommel Close 2 Bed Top Floor \$400 PCM

Stuart Swas

PROPERTY AUCTION Tuesday, 7th December 2010



71 BRUFORD ROAD, PENN FIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON Mid Terraced in need of full refurb. Small area of foregarden. Two Reception, Kitchen area, Lobby, Ground Floor Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Rear Garden.

Guide: £44,000 / £49,000 VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 19th & 20th November @ 9.30 a.m.



39 ETTINGSHALL ROAD,

COSELEY
Spacious Semi, Two Reception, 18ft Kitchen, Three Bedrooms,
Bathroom. Gas Heating to Radiators, majority uPVC windows.
Large Rear Garden. Vehicular access and Parking.

Guide: £80,000 / £90,000 VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 19th & 20th November @ 10.15 a.m.



41 ETTINGSHALL ROAD, COSELEY

Spacious Semi, ample off-road Parking, Porch, Hall, Two Reception, Sun Lounge, Two Stores, 15ft Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Heating to Radiators, majority PVC windows. Rear Garden with 34ft Garden Room/Store Guide: £80,000 / £90,000 VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY,



2 ROOKERY ROAD, c/o MEADOW LANE, LANESFIELD

Modern Detached on generous corner plot. Wide Hall, Two Reception
Pantry, Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Bathrom, majority uPVC
and Heating to Radiators. Detached Garage, Tarmac drive.

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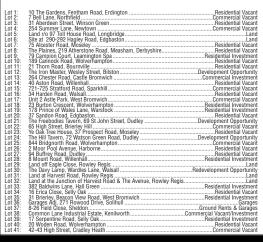
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114 Lots









	1.0			
16 Victoria Road, Stechford 29 Westpoint, Hermitage Road, Edphaston 11 Market Place, Wednesbury, Hardwick Carri, Wood Lane, Streethy 52 Chillian Steeth, Wood Lane, Streethy 52 Dawlish Road, Selly Oak, 72 Lourt Lane, Erdington, 71 De Montfort Gourt, High Street, Heiley in Arden, 71 De Montfort Gourt, High Street, Heiley in Arden, 71 De Montfort Gourt, High Street, Cradley Health Land Adjacent 25 Allbut Street, Cradley Health Land Between 68 & 70 Caristrovice Road, Wednesbury Land at 188-169 Halessowen Street, Rowley Regis 81et at 189-206 Street, West Brommich, Steet Allewson Street, West Brommich, Steet Allewson Street, West Brommich, 71 Doppool Lane, Selly Park, 71 Doppool Lane, Selly Park, 71 May Street, Burstein Stole on Trent 71 Trinity Road, Willenhald, Stole on Trent 71 Trinity Road, Willenhald, Stole on Trent	Residential Vacant	Lot 83:	25 Pale Street, Upper Gornal	Residential Vacant
29 Westpoint, Hermitage Road, Edgbaston	Residential Investment	Lot 84:	3 Acorn Grove, Wordsley, Stourbridge	Residential Vacant
Hardwick Court, Wood Lang, Streetly	Commercial Part Vacant/Part Investment	Lot 85:	117 Wolverhampton Street, Dudley	Commercial/Residential Investment
52 Clifton Street Wolverhamnton	Commercial Part Vacant/Part Investment	Lot 86:	25 Lightswood Hill, Smethwick	Residential Vacant
182 Bacchus Road, Winson Green	Development Opportunity	Lot 87:	646 Tyhurn Boad Erdington	Residential Investment
92 Dawlish Road, Selly Oak	Residential Vacant	Lot 88:	25 Lightswood Hill, Smethwick	Residential Vacant
121 Court Lane, Erdington	Residential Vacant	Lot 89:	48 Essington Way, Wolverhampton	Poeidential Vacant
11 De Montfort Court, High Street, Henley in Arden		Lot 90:	7 Ivy House Lane, Coseley	Posidential Vacant
Land Adjacent 25 Allbut Street, Cradley Heath	Development Opportunity	Lot 90:	44 Shenstone Valley Road, Halesowen	
Land Between 68 & 70 Carisbrooke Road, Wednesbury	Development Opportunity	LUL 91.		
Land at 168-169 Halesowen Street, Rowley Regis	Development Opportunity	Lot 92:	34 The Parade, Cradley Heath	Residentiai vacant
Site at Jervoise Street, West Bromwich	Development Opportunity	Lot 93:	16 Taylor Road, Parkfield, Wolverhampton	Residentiai Vacant
Site Adjacent 2 Lea Avenue, Wednesbury	Development Opportunity	Lot 94:	185 Cotterills Lane, Ward End	
Site at 188-206 Toll End Road Tinton	Development Opportunity	Lot 95:	290 Selly Oak Road, Bournville	Residential Vacant
71 Dogpool Lane, Selly Park		Lot 96:	47 Marley Road, Kingswinford	Residential Vacant
12 May Street, Burslem Stoke on Trent	Residential Vacant	Lot 97:	50 Gordon Road, Harborne	Residential Vacant
71 Berdmore Street, Fenton, Stoke on Trent	Residential Vacant	Lot 98:	38 Central Avenue, Bilston	Residential Vacant
21 ITINITY K020, WIIIENNAII		Lot 99:	199 Alvechurch Road, West Heath	Residential Vacant
21 Tilliy Yuday Wileiniai 23 Cape Hill, Smethwick 57 Anderton Park Road, Moseley 28 Belgrade Road, Wolverhampton 19 Marshall Road, Willenhall	Residential Investment	Lot 100:	272 Moseley Road, Highgate	Commercial Vacant
28 Belgrade Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 101:	4 Hannah Road, Bilston SOLD PRIOR	Residential Vacant
19 Marshall Road, Willenhall	Residential Investment	Lot 102:	17 Walker Street, Tipton	Residential Vacant
16 Oakland Road, Bloxwich	Residential Vacant		73 Links Road, Penn, Wolverhampton	
Premier House Rolfe Street Smethwick	Commercial Vacant	Lot 105:	42 Normanton Tower, Portfield Grove, Erdington	Residential Vacant
19-21 Henley Crescent, Solihull	Commercial Vacant/Residential Investment	Lot 100.	23 Eagle Crescent, Eccleshall, Staffs	Pacidantial Invactment
8 Oversley House, Kinwarton Road, Alcester	Residential Vacant	Lot 100.	The Barn, 479 Bordesley Green East, Stechford	Desidential III/Count
19 Maishal Road, Bloxwich 18 Maishal Road, Bloxwich 18 Witton Lodge Road, Erdington Premier House, Rolle Street, Smelhwick 19-21 Henley Crescent, Solihull 8 Oversley House, Kinwarton Road, Alcester 11 Oversley House, Kinwarton Road, Alcester 214-224 Barr Street, Hockley	Residential Vacant			
40 Beech Green, Dudley			102 Waterloo Road, Smethwick	
101 Rembridge Brookeide Telford	Recidential Vacant	Lot 109:	4 Douglas Road, Coseley	Residential Vacant
101 Bembridge, Brookside, Telford	Residential Investment	Lot 110:	55 Hyde Road, Wednesfield	Residential Vacant
118 Probert Road, Oxley, Wolverhampton	Residential Investment	Lot 111:	10 Sandfield Bridge, Pensnett, Brierley Hill	Residential Vacant
182-182a Waterloo Road, Smethwick	Commercial/Residential Vacant	Lot 112:	7 Ingleby Gardens, Wolverhampton	Residential Investment
10 Scribbane Close, Graphysick		Lot 113:	104 Holden Crescent, Walsall	Residential Vacant
13 Laburnum Road, Bournville	Residential Vacant	Lot 114:	63 Hayes Street, West Bromwich	Residential Vacant
8 Edgbaston Road East, Balsall Heath		Lot 115:	16 Farndon Road, Alum Rock	Residential Vacant
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Pitcher plants trap prev with a deep cavity filled with liquid, known as a pitfall,





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Psome unexpected qualities like eating insects and there is currently a national collection of carnivo-

rous plants these in Shropshire.

Mike King has been fascinated by sar-Mike Ming has been fascinated by sar-racenias, or pitcher plants as they are sometimes called, since he was a boy and has held the national collection since 2003 in Telford.

Most of the Sarracenias come from the Ameri-

anosa or the Surracenns come from the Americas, but there is a native plant, called the Sundew, which grows in boggy areas.

The leaves are surrounded by filaments and when an insect sits on the leaf the filaments curl up and trap it. Slowly, it is then digested and absorbed as food by the plant. These plants can



occasionally be found in garden centres, mar-keted as a type of pet for children to feed.

Pitcher plants are not too difficult to grow and can even be grown outside in a sheltered area as they are hardy to about minus five degrees, but they are better suited to a warmer climate in a cool greenhouse.

The spectacular parts are the leaves, which are speckled, blotched and look like pitchers.

The insect is attracted to the plant by a distinctive smell and totters into the bottom of the pitcher where it drowns in a fluid where it is passed to the plant

During the summer, the plant produces attractive flowers with a yellow or tinged with coral colour. They are around two to three inch long single flowers which droop slightly.

The plants can be grown from seed, sown on damp compost in March at about 60 degrees Fahrenheit but they must be kept damp and pricked out when they have three to four leave. Later, then they are fully grown they can be divided to make further plants.

For someone with plenty of time Pitcher Plants are great fun to grow, but they do need a lot of maintenance as they need to be kept continually damp.

This requires close monitoring every day.



-known Venus Fly Trap is commonly known for its insect eating abilit





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MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS MOTORI

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PEUGEOT 308 GT 200

French firm's 'warm' hatch showcases its manufacturing prowess, says **Richard H Hammond**

Peugeot celebrates its 200th anniversary this year, which is quite an

To put it into context, when Peugeot was founded in 1810, Napoleon had 11 years left in him and Beethoven was still

hard at work.

Of course, had Napoleon or Beethoven popped down to their local Peugeot dealership it would have been to purchase a coffee mill

local Peugeot dealership it would have been to purchase a coffee mill rather than a car.

The company's first foray into mobility came with push bikes in 1830. It wasn't until the 1890s that Peugeot built its first internal combustion engine-powered cars, inspired by meetings with Gottlieb Daimler in person.

More than a century later, cars have advanced to a level that would have been unthinkable to the fathers and founders of the motoring industry — a level that allows Peugeot to mark its bi-centenary with a model powered by an engine less than three-times the size of those in its first ever models, but producing 100-times the power.

The 1.6-litre turbocharged unit present in the 308 GT 200 makes it the most powerful version of the 308 hatchback since the model's launch in late 2007.

Put to good use in the new RCZ Coupe and in the 308CC convertible, it's an engine used to deliver a combination of power and economy by other manufacturers, too. Peugeot

Sporty yet practical **GT** is birthday treat

aficionados will have noticed that the 308 GT is missing something. The additional 'i is noticeable through its absence from the GT badge. Although the model is badged as the 308 GT in some European markets, Peugeot has stopped short of giving it the full-blown GTi title in the UK.

Why? The answer lies in the GT 200's tractable nature. It's not a full blown hot hatch designed to compete with scalding three-door performance models such as the Ford Focus RS, RenaultSport Megane, Volkswagen Golf'R or Seat Leon Cupra R, but with 200bhp and a sub-eight second 0-62mph acceleration time, it's not your run-of-the-mill family hatch, either.

The extra chilli that would have earned the model a GTi badge has been deliberately left out of the mixture in favour of five-doors, a more agreeable ride and better manners around town.

These aims, the 308 GT 200



achieves. Despite the induction roar achieves. Despite the induction roar and impressive in-gear acceleration, the model is capable of functioning just like a regular family car from nine to five. The five-door layout offers good access and practicality, the steering is light around town and the ride demonstrates typical a French prowess. Yet there's always

degree of menace bubbling away under the surface. It's implicit from the exterior styling; the 308's hand-some design has been subtly revised in GT 200 specification with butch bumpers at both ends, a rear dif-fuser, twin chrome exhausts, carbon inserts in the front and particularly attractive alloy wheels. It is subtly

Peugeot's lively 308 GT 200 offers a measured blend of the sensible and entertaining

aggressive but still discreet, boosting the everyday appeal.
However, when the mood calls for it the 308GT goes a long way towards delivering GTi thrills. The 1.6 THP unit comes with a rewarding soundtrack and the chassis, although not on a par with genuine hot hatch models, proves more than

capable of dealing with enthusiastic

ROAD TEST

capable of dearing with entirestation cornering.

The GT 200 changes direction imbly and with little loss of traction, body roll is limited given the quality of the ride and both throttle response and braking are impressi sively urgent.

The steering suffers for its tractable nature in town, offering decent weight but limited feedback and the steering wheel feels a little oversized for a sporty model. On the control front, the staggered pedal heights take a little getting use to as well.

Despite these small faults, you can rely on the model to put a smile on your face with its performance. The value for money is likely to do the same. Half-leather interior,

the same. Hall-leather interior, parking sensors, dual-zone climate control, electric windows and mirrors and neat touches such as the metal gear knob and pedals are all standard.

Lumbar support and side bolsters on the excellent front seats along on the excenent front seas along with an arm rest for rear passengers makes it effortlessly comfortable, and the interior ambience teeters on luxurious thanks to some contempo-

ruy styling and details.

Peugeot could have celebrated its birthday with an all-out performance model but the sporty yet tractable 308 GT 200 is actually a far better demonstration of the man-ufacturer's car building ability. It's a measured blend of sensible and entertaining, and would no doubt have pleased the Peugeot family.





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RONICLE MOTORING

Update for ng Spur



The popular Continental Flying Spur now gets the dramatic Series 51 colour and trim upgrades as well as new hi-tech infotainment.

The Continental Flying Spur and its sporting stablemate the 200mph Flying Spur Speed are the most suc-Continental Speed are the most suc-cessful four-door Grand Tourers in Bentley's history and among the best-selling ultra-luxury saloons in the world. Since its launch, the Flying Spur has achieved outstand-

Since its launch, the Flying Spur has achieved outstanding sales success across the globe in traditional markets like the USA, the Middle East and UK, as well as emerging luxury markets such can command the such as China and Russia.

The Flying Spur has attracted a new generation of luxury car buyers to the Bentley marque and has played a pivotal role in the company's revitalisation.

The model's blend of craftsmanship, dynamic performance, style and practicality appeals in equal measure to those who demand an exciting driving experience and those seeking refinement and comfort.

Now the luxurious style of the Flying Spur is even more compelling with the introduction of a range of dramatic 'Series 51' designs, first seen on the Continental GT and GTC.

Customers of both the Flying Spur and Flying Spur Speed models may now select from a range of 14 Series 51 designs, as recommended by Bentley's colour and trim experts.

In addition, all Continental Flying Spur and Supersports models are now specified as standard with a state-of-the-art, 30GB touchscreen infotainment system, seamlessly integrated into their handcrafted cabins.

Continental Flying Spur Series 51 Series 51 represents Bentley design at its most vibrant. It allows customers of both Conti-nental Flying Spur and Flying Spur Speed to order off the peg from an innovative and exclusive range of recommended combina-

well as new hi-tech infotainment.

tions created by Bentley's colour
and trim designers at the
company's headquarters in
Crewe.

Dirk van Braeckel, Bentley's
director of design, said: "The
Series 51 design concept is
inspired by the spirit of the inaugural Bentley styling department
in Crewe established by the
gifted John Blatchley, who
shaped the original and iconic
1950s Bentley Continentals.

"Today, it provides for a virtually bespoke ordering service due
to the thousands of configurations available through Bentley's
expansive colour and trim catalogue."

Melinda June-Jenkins,

ogue. Melinda Melinda June-Jenkins, manager of colour and trim, explained: "Each Series 51 Flying Spur is instantly recognisable most notably in the cabin area where the colour and trim team has created a wide selection of three-tone interiors demonstrating the full potential of the company's vast colour palette.

"One of the most exciting aspects of the Series 51 designs is the feedback from Bentley customers and their desire to explore further what we can offer. Series June-Jenkins.

further what we can offer. Series 51 provides just a starting point and now we are creating designs.

and now we are creating designs which make an even stronger and more personal statement.

For Series 51 designs, the Bentley styling team operates on a 'rule of three' principle to create complex but harmonising colour schemes of depth and beauty, inspired by a customer's simple choice of three contrasting colours.

With luxurious wood veneers and leather hides as the main canvas, the colour and trim specialists begin with a main interior colour (typically a darker shade) and then select a second insert colour to provide an eye-catching contrast.

colour to provide an eye-catching contrast.

A critical skill is identifying the third 'accent' colour for the stitch-ing and piping.

The selection of wood veneers or aluminium panels for the dashboard either complements the overall look or provides even greater contrast if the customer so desires.

Bentley has reserved the limited-edition Sapelli Pomelle veneer (which provides a rare, naturally occurring quilted effect in the wood) for the Series 51 Flying Spur and a range of further options, including Bentley's leather trimmed child seat and scatter cushions for the rear seats, may also be specified to further complement the exclusive design.

Advanced infotainment
All 2012 model year Bentley
Continental Flying Spur and
Supersports coupe and convertible models are now equipped
with a highly-advanced touchscreen infotainment system that
provides rich map imagery and a
30GB on-board hard drive.
An eight-inch screen displays
the car's audio system, telephone,
ride and comfort settings as well
as the very latest navigation
system, which uses both an in-car
hard-disc drive and DVD player
to access route data.
It also utilises dynamic naviga-

to access route data.

It also utilises dynamic navigation to avoid heavy traffic spots, locates destinations using geotagged photos from an SD memory card.

The infotainment system, with

seven-digit postcode entry, com-bines touchscreen controls and classic Bentley knurled rotary switches to offer instant usability and crystal-clear feedback.

switches to offer instant usability and crystal-clear feedback.

The graphic interface of the screen was specified by Bentley's interior design team to ensure its visuals are wholly in keeping with the classic, handcrafted interior. The knurled switches on the screen for example, are virtual' echoes of the knurled texture of the jewel-like rotary switches below.

The latest Continental Flying Spur and Supersports models also benefit from telephone and music player connectivity, digital television (where available) and DVD movie playback. Music can be played and controlled directly from an iPod.

The new 2012 model year Continental Flying Spur, Flying Spur Speed and their Series 51 design options, go on sale from March 2011.





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CHRONICLE MOTORING

Weller-styled Mini with all mod cons



Paul Weller with the Mini he has designed to raise money for War Child and Nordoff Robbins Musical Therapy

od rock legend Paul Weller has styled his own bespoke ▲Mini as part of a project to

raise money for charity.
Following his headline performance at Mini's 50th Birthday extravaganza at Silverstone last year, the former Jam and Style Council front man was asked to create his own version of the iconic ear.

iconic car. Weller, a longstanding Mini enthisiast, agreed – and the result is a car that's boldly finished in pink and brown stripes, with a single silver stripe running up the centre. The star said: "Tve always loved and driven Minis, so when I was given the

opportunity to design a bespoke Cooper I wanted to create something that reflected the mood and colours associated with the Mod era, which was also the classic Mini's

Mod era, which we heyday.

"Id already expressed these colours in a shirt I designed for Ben Sherman a few years ago, so it made sense to me to continue the theme using a Mini Cooper as a very sense."

Dangerous

Weller added: "Twe decided to donate the car to two charities: War Child is an amazing organisation which works tirelessly to provide protection for kids who live in some of the world's most dangerous places - Iraq, Afghanistan, Uganda and

DRC. Nordoff Robbins is the charity that really uses music to transform the lives of kids and adults fundraising to help and support these vulnerable people."

The car, built in Oxford and handpainted by Mini craftsmen, is being auctioned for one month at

tioned for one month www.paulwellerminiauction.com

www.paulweitermmnauction.com
The car is a 2009 Mini Cooper, with 17inch alloys, black leather upholstery, Bluetooth, front heated seats, and a Chili Pack.
The recommended retail price of the car is
£17,920. All proceeds of the auction will be
divided between the two charities.
The car will be on display in Mini's flag-

ship showroom on Park Lane, London for the duration of the auction.



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Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Corsa SRi Range: 40.4 (7.0) - 49.6 (5.7), extra-urban 61.4 (4.6) - 72.4 (3.9), combined 51.4 (5.5) - 61.4 (4.6), CO₂Emissions 129 - 119 g/km.

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, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 2008 Page

RUGBY

Aldridge got off to a lively start ib their home game.

Tries from flanker Ben Drinkwater and lock Jim Arnold with a conversion from full back Alex Yates meant there were 12 points posted in as many minutes.

From then on Aldridge never

From then on Aldridge never looked like losing this encounter with league stragglers Wheaton Aston but they certainly laboured with what should have been a relatively simple task. With a few regular faces

teamwork that has been a feature of their recent outings were absent as they struggled to apply any sort of shape to their

The final margin was 36 – 0 but that the score remained at 12-0 until the score remained at 12-0 until the final quarter is evidence of their visitors' resilience. Then, with a bit of slope assis-

Then, with a bit of slope assistance, Aldridge did at last begin to get a grip on proceedings and laid siege to the opposition line. A couple of attacking scrums led first to flanker Tony Jaep picking up to cross between the

posts and shortly after, to a penalty try being awarded for persistent scrummage infringe-

ments. Winger Ashley Lowe increased Winger Ashley Lowe increased the margin further with a blister-ing touchline run into the corner and just before the end, stand-in No8, Ben Pittam was credited with the touch down when Aldridge back pedalled a 5metre scrum over the opposition try line. Yates added two conver-sions.

Aldridge have a league fixture away to Whittington next week. Kick off 2.15pm.

NEWS

Good start, flourish to finish Silver for Olivia as club celebrates

Walsall Gymnastics Club have celebrating its first medal win in a regional competition – just 15 months after they

opened.
Olivia Weaver, aged 14, won a silver medal in the Level 3 West Midlands championships at North Solihull Sports Centre after impressing with her rou-

floor.

It's the first time the club, which opened their Marlow Street premises in August last vear after relocating from Sutton Coldfield, have entered a gymnast for a major competition.

Head coach Sue Price, said she was thrilled that they had notched up their

first medal success already. "She had to complete to some quite complex moves and has worked really hard on her rou-tines, so we were so pleased when she won the silver medal," she said.

Olivia, a pupil at Rugby Girls' School who has practised gymnastics since she was five, said she was proud of her achievement.

"I knew the other competitors were of a very hard standard, so I couldn't believe it when I heard I won the silver," she

For details about Walsall Gymnastics. visit www.walsallgymnasticsclub.co.uk or telephone Jayne Dolan on 0783 4414301.



JUNIORS

Scorpions fall victim to Vipers' bite

BLOXWICH VIPERS 4 BUSH SCORPIONS 1 UIOS

The Vipers passed the ball well and were rewarded with an early goal, the Scorpions tried to acligate and in the second half were rewarded with a consolation goal as a result of a tap-in during a goal mouth scramble from Regan Stephens. The Scorpions were not able to spoil the Vipers' passing game and they finished with four goals.

THE ON YOUTH AZTEC 3 BUSH SCORPIONS 0 UIOS

The Scorpions had to come back from the defeat in the cup match to a friendly with Tipton and despite some early pressure were unable to snatch a goal. They followed this up and despite some good defending from Callum Thomas, they managed another two goals.

Overall a 'bad day at the office' for the Scorpions

two goals.

Overall a 'bad day at the office' for the Scorpions who will have to pull themselves back for the league ches next week. MoM went to Thomas RUGELEY RANGERS 5 SHIRE OAK SHARKS 0 U16S

Sharks battled well but trailed 1-0 at half time. Their best effort came when Ashley Bell's volley just

wide.

Rugeley's superior league position showed through as they moved further ahead in the second half despite a good defensive display from Kameran Bevington and some good saves from Sam Butters. Callum Watkins looked lively on his debut for Sharks.

Callum Watkins looked lively on his debut for Sharks.

SHIRE OAK 2 BEECHDALE JUNIORS 4 U118

Swifts conceded early in the first half of this match against Beechdale. After a near miss penalty from Beechdale and a goal for Swifts from Greg Clarkes, Swifts pulled the game back at half time.

They had a much better second half with some good defending from Sam Easton and Josh Belcher. Afree kick was given to Beechdale which gave them the lead.

Tom Lloyd made some cracking saves for Swifts but with Beechdale given another penalty the score was widening.

James Boden and Jack Belcher fought hard to keep Swifts in the game and with an amazing goal coming from Conor Daniel, it was all very much to play for at 3-2.

But Beechadle scored after their were given.

play for at 3-2.

But Becchadle scored after their were given another free kick and the score ended 4-2 at full time. Swifts man of the match went to Conor Daniel.

TIPTON TOWN O CRESSWELL WANDERERS 10 U12S

TIPTON TOWN 0 CRESSWELL WANDERERS 10 U12S
League leaders Cresswell, who were looking for their 11th successive win, started brightly on a sodden pitch. Sleek passing from back to front ended in a first minute goal from Ryan Brookes, who went on to claim a hat-trick.

More goals followed from Liam Pike, Jack Squire, Jake Brookes, Jack Dunn and an own goal from Tipton. But nothing topped the epic performance of man of the match Robbie Smith, who notched up a well-deserved pair of goals from the top drawer.

Juniors roof boost



Cresswell players wearing kits which the donation helped provide.

A junior Walsall football team have been given a boost from a local company. PRG roofing Service Ltd, of Well Lane, Walsall, have donated \$1,000 with the possibility of an additional \$1,000 in the New Year to Cresswell Wanderers.

Club vice-chairman Mike Howells said, "We are overwhelmed with PRG Roofing's generosity. In the current climate it's harder and harder for our teams to generate funds for kits and equipment. This gives the club a massive boost."

Cresswell have been established for more than 30 years. They are proud to boast that they hold the longest community charter standard award of any team in the Staffordshire football association region.

The club have 15 teams, ranging from their academy to open age in both men and womens. The club name originates from the founder, Brian Orton, licensee of the Leather 'n' Bottle pub, Cresswell Cresent, Moseley, Bloxwich.

Young footballers hope gifts bear fruit



Asda's Julie Love and Dot May drop in on Bloxwich Youth FC to deliver the healthy fruit.

Bloxwich Youth FC will enjoy a healthy half time refuel for the rest of the season, thanks to a fruity donation from a local supermarketWalsall.

Asda staff Julie Love and Dot May dropped in during the team's weekly training session to deliver the first batch of energising fresh fruit and hand over a £250 gift card, which the club can use to stock up on healthy refreshments for the rest of the season.

healthy refreshments for the rest of the season.

Community colleague Julie Love said: "Lots of our colleagues have children themselves and it's always nice to give local young people a treat. We hope the healthy mibbles will keep them energised and result in lots of winning goals this season!"

Debra Anslow, who helps to run Blowich Youth FC, said: "The boys had a real laugh with the two lovely ladies from Asda Walsall and we're very grateful for the support.

"We'll be able to stock up on refreshments for matches and training sessions for months thanks to them."

Lockmen's fightback falls short in the end

Willenhall mounted a spirited, but ultimately unsuccessful, fightback at home to Studley.
Things started brightly for

Things started brightly for the Lockmen with Ansel Gayle unlucky to see a seventh minute strike come back off the inside of a post. Joe Adams and Paul Dowsett had weak efforts for the vistors before they took an 18th-minute lead from a harshly-awarded nepalty.

penalty.

penaity.

Adams blasted into the bottom right hand corner, although Liam Flynn was close to getting a hand

to it.

He made a super one-handed block on 24 minutes to deny Dowsett before Adams fired the follow-up into the side-netting.

Flynn was again in action when his superb long kick picked out Mitch Fellows at the other end.

Willenhall's leading scorer was just beaten to the ball by the keeper after turning past his

Power

Power

But all of the Reds' hard work appeared to be undone in the space of 14 minutes.
First James Beauchamp picked up a half clearance just outside the box and his first-time effort, which lacked power, still crept into the bottom corner,
A fine through ball beat the off-side trap and Dowsett rolled a cool effort beyond Flynn on 58 minutes.
Five minutes later it was four as Lei Brown picked up a pass 30 yards out, rode two half-hearted challenges and finished emphatically down the centre of the goal from the edge of the box.
Willenhall's fightback started as almost from the restart Andre Calder ficked on a forward ball for Fellows. He rounded the keeper, checked back and fired past four defenders on the goal-line.
The returning Craig Hancox then scored an absolute beauty to further cut the deficit on 77 minutes.

minutes. He picked the ball up and lobbed

PELSALL VILLA

Vale Substitute Nash makes difference as he joins the fray

PEISALL VILLA 0 CASTLE VALE 3
With less than 20 minutes left Villa looked to be heading for their first draw of the season, but then Ryan Nash was introduced into the frag.
His first touch unlocked the Villa defence and Danny O'Callaghan opened the scoring. From then on there was only ever going to be one result as Vale closed the gap on leaders Heather. In the opening minute Danny O'Callaghan raced clear for Vale. Keith Russell cut out his low cross but his clearance went to Terry Carpenter. Russell was in quickly to block his shot. A left wing free kick on seven minutes was played to find Carpenter, who fired just wide. Three minutes later he played a left wing corner short to Richard Deavall who gave him a chance to race in on goal but he finished weakly.
On 22 minutes Scott Chapman won

the ball on halfway for Villa and found Andrew Bentley, his lovely diagonal ball put James Lewis clear but his low drive was taken comfortably by Peter Maguire in the visitors goal.

The visitors put the home defence under pressure on 30 minutes. Carpenter crossed and Danny Tynon arrived late hit a first time effort high over.

Two minutes later, a central free kick on halfway the ball fell for Christian Crisp to hit first time. Villa keeper Dale Hendy making a good save from his low drive. On 36 minutes Carpenter cut in from the right before hitting a rising drive that Hendy superbly pushed round his left hand post.

Villa nearly took a shock lead on 40 minutes. Ryan Williams delivered a long throw into the box and a scramble developed before Bentley fired an effort inches wide. Three minutes later he fed Lewis wide left, he left his marker for

dead but his cross was too high for Williams. Right on half-time Carpenter capitalised on a defensive slip and raced for goal. He was half stopped by Ashley Lawley but got clear again, Hendy making a brave block.

Villa had three chances in as many minutes in the seconod half but none produced goals theb on 74 minutes substitute Nash released O'Callaghan, who calmly flick the ball over Hendy.

On 82 minutes O'Callaghan won the ball in midfield and found Nash 40 yards out, he ran through a tired defence and finished superbly.

Right on time Sam Giles raced away and rolled the ball across the face of goal for Joe Halsall to tap home.

Villa's battling performance deserved a point, but Nash's introduction was the turning point as his incisive play opened up a Villa defence.

Bill Shaw

Olympic leave it so late to strike twice to beat their lowly-placed opponents

EVO-STIK LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION SOUTH RUSHALL OLYMPIC 2 MARKET DRAYTON TOWN 1 Two late goals earned Rushall

Two late goals earned Rushall Olympic a much-needed home win against Market Drayton Town. In an encounter where the last-but-one side in the league belied their lowly standing and were themselves just

standing and were themselves just seven minutes away from victory before the resilient Pics struck back. Rushall enjoyed a lively opening and three times in the space of five minutes Chris Morris was at the centre of good opportunities as his side sought to gain an early advantage.

In the second minute the front runner sent a 12-yard drive into the arms of 'Keeper Andrew Pryce. Three minutes later Adie Smith's looping ball forward from deep picked out Morris only to see the visitors custodian make

a timely tackle. On seven minutes the striker laid the ball off to Alex Melbourne down the right, before receiving the return pass 12 yards out, but curled

the return pass 12 yards out, but curled an effort agonisingly wide of the left hand upright.

Despite Olympic's bright start Drayton shocked their hosts on 19 minutes by forging into the lead in their first worthwhile offensive of the game. As the home defence failed to deal with a corner, forward Martyn Davies darted in to head home from close range.

close range. Seven minutes later Morris created a

great opportunity after peeling off his marker but frove wide. On 28 minutes the Pics went close as a long ball sent Stanford Hepburn racing clear through the left channel. His rasping effort went wide. Anthony Maguire hit a first time

drive straight at Pryce from the edge of the box. When Hepburn knocked the ball down into the path of Maguire inside the box the midfielder could only

inside the box the midfielder could only fire over from an acute angle. The introduction of Danny Lennon injected impetus into Olympic's attack and in the 67th minute his good work set up Morris, who drove straight into the arms of Pryce.

With just seven minutes remaining Lennon pulled the ball back to Morris, who drilled an unstoppable first-time shot through a crowded goalmouth into the netfrom the edge of the box.

With the game heading for a draw substitute Ahmed Obeng was upended in the third minute of added time just outside Town's penalty area. Allex Melbourne's drilled free-kick bounced in the six yard box through the legs of Pics skipper Smith and into the net.

WALSALL WOOD Grief at

hands

of Griff

WALSALL WOOD1
NUNEATON GRIFF 2
Wood went down to 10man Griff after producing another inconsistent
performance.
In the 12th minute
Wood midfielder Scott
Cooper went through
into the box and rounded
the keeper but was
brought down to prevent
a goalscoring opportunity.

nity.
The Griff shot-stopper The Griff shot-stopper was sent off and Cooper stepped up to take the penalty but the stand-in keeper dived to his left to keep out the effort.

Wood made chances as they looked to make

their numerical advan-

as they looked to make their numerical advantage count.

But against the run of play the visitors scored courtesy of an own goal by Wood's captain Brett Larkins.

Stunned into action Wood created several chances and right-back Rob Cadman ensured the hosts went into half-time on level terms with a 35th-minute effort.

They continued to press and created opportunities but in the final few minutes, they gave a free-kirck away outside

the area. The ball was delivered into the six-yard box and, after attempts to clear the ball by the Wood defence, it fell to Graham, who bundled the ball over the line to earn a stoppage time

BLOXWICH No luck in cup tie

SHIFNAL TOWN 2
BLOXWICH UNITED AFC 2
The Red Lions were unlucky not to have progressed to the next round of the FA Vase after Shifnal grabbed a late equaliser.
The home side started the better and took the lead early in the first half. John Freeman equalised and Leon Taylor looked to have won the game for Bloxwich when he added a second.
The visitors were reduced to 10 men when Alan Wilkes was sent off after he picked up his second yellow card late in the second half.

Bloxwich looked to be heading into the next round draw until the home side forced a replay when a deflected shot found its way past keeper Gavin Ellis with just minutes remaining.

minutes remaining. DARLASTON 2 BROMYARD1

Darlo came from behind to register their seventh victory of the term. Will Tolley put Bromyard in front with a penalty but Joe Brennan equalised after Liam Williamson had been brought down and Wayne Aldersley hit the winner.

SPORT

SPORTING KHALSA Paying price for missed chances

WEST MIDLAND REGIONAL LEAGUE - DIVISION ONE WRYLEY 2 SPORTING KHALSA 2

WRYLEY 2 SPORTING KHALSA 2
Khalsa resued a point in the second-half fight back
but was left to rue missed opportunities after they
were held to a 2-2 draw against Wryley FC.
Khalsa got off to the perfect start when new
signing Fazul Ulam fired home on 25 minutes andshould have went in at half-time with a bigger lead
but wasted change after change.

should have went in at half-time with a bigger lead but wasted chance after chance.

They started off in the second half by dominating the play but were left stunned when Wyrley scored two goals within a five minutes spell around the 60th minute. An own goal from H Gill and a mix-up in defence for the second goal. Khalsa rallied and camped in Wryley's half but could not get the break through as Amarjit Nayal hit the post and Scot Sandland's shot was cleared off the line. Khalsa effort was rewarded in the 85th minute when Khalsa effort was rewarded in the 85th minute when Khalsa effort was rewarded in the 5th minute when Khalsa effort was rewarded in the strike. Holdcroft should have sealed all the points at the end but, missed from six yards.

Khalsa dropped another two points as Wyrley only managed three shots on target and scored two goals.

LEISURE LEAGUES

Barrett homes in

To bury the Beasts

WALSALL AND WOLVERHAMPTON 6 A SIDE FOOTBALL

Dudley Lions made it seven points from seven ames in the Wolverhampton league sneaking home
5-5 against BBC FC, who went down despite the best florts of Tom Nicklin. England Lions' victory was WALSALL AND WOLVERHAMPTON 6 A SIDE FOOTBALL
Dudley Lions made it seven points from seven
games in the Wolverhampton league sneaking home
6-5 against BBC FC, who went down despite the best
efforts of Tom Nicklin. England Lions' victory was
much more emphatic, the high-fliers having Chris
Turner at his best as they beat Sparkys R Us FC 122. Quite a race is building in the Tuesday league,
with the top three separated by just a point. The
Legends are top on goal difference after Mark Stanbuck was the star turn in a 10-2 victory over Midlands Allstars, with The New Inn, who ran out 4-2
victors over The Badger Boys and Coneygree third.
Vention Wolves left Bloxwich Youth struggling at
the wrong end of the Walsall Monday Premier
League after they lost by the odd goal in five. Dale
Barrett was at his best in division one as Des United
smashed Bloxwich Beasts 6-1. There was another 61 in division two, with Bayer Neverlusen living up to
their name and seeing off Ashmore Lake largely
thanks to James Burns hot form. Elsewhere saw 5
Felds secure their first points, beating Inter 3-1.
Shower Dan are hanging on in the title race after
a 3-1 cruise over Caldmore Chameleons. Walsall Allstars were the big winners in the Walsall Thursday
division one, easing out Delves Parafins 5-2. Mossley
Milan made it 14 points from 14 games in division
two with a stunning 7-0 defeat of high-flying MSFC.

HOCKEY

BLOXWICH HOCKEY CLUB BLOXWICH O LICHFIELD 2

Bloxwich got off to a slow start and allowed Lichfield an early goal. Midway through the first half Bloxwich managed to compose themselves and began to fight back. Their fighting spirit continued in to the second half and Bloxwich were unlucky to concede a second goal from scrappy play. An uneventful rest of second half left the final score 2-0 to Lichfield.

MENS 280S
BLXWIGH S TAFFORD 0
A strong and confident performance saw Bloxwich leap Stafford into second in league after beating them 5-0. Four goals from veteran forward Mike O'Brien and one from Phil Foster saw Bloxwich home in what was by far their best performance so far this season.

MENS 1ST
BLOXWICH 5 BARLASTON 0
Bloxwich hosted Barlaston and dominated the game from start to finish. Bloxwich could have taken the lead in the first few minutes but Adam Baldwin missed a penalty flick, but made amends when he set Ed Marrocco up to score, Matt Baldwin then scored and Adam Baldwin got a brace before halftime. Matt then scored twice again in the second half to complete his hat-trick. Steve Mazuerk and Kelton Scott had great games at the back.

Recalled Marshall puts in man-of-match effort

Man of the Match, Paul Marshall: Recalled for the first time in two months and justified his selection. The ex-Manchester City man wasn't spectacular but was neat and tidy and almost got lucky when Jalal spilled his cross. 7/10

spilled his cross. 7710

Jimmy Walker: The stopper was underworked in a quiet first half – except having to pick the ball out of the net. He was left horribly exposed for McQuoid's second and was unlucky to be beaten by a deflection for the third 610.

Darryl Westlake: Came out of the game

with his reputation intact despite the score-line. The youngster has impressed after his recent recall and has done well to handle the

recent recall and has done well to handle the pressure. 7/10

Andy Butler: Thrust into the spotlight after signing on Friday in an attempt to solve the defensive problems. He couldn't help the Saddlers keep a clean sheet but din't do much wrong in a steady debut, 6/10

Manny Smith: The defender was made to look a fool by Pugh in the lead up to McQuoid's opener and failed to recover from the setback. A poor display. 4/10

Aaron Lescott: The veteran switched to the left to cover the suspended Ryan McGivern and was steady. He must take his share of the blame for the second goal. 6/10 Reuben Reid: Faded after a lively opening before being withdrawn as the Sad-

dlers chased the game. 5/10

Matt Richards: Guilty for Bourne-Matt Richards: Gunty for nourne-mouth's first after surrendering possession in midfield and rarely looked like forcing the issue. Did try to pass and keep the ball on the deek but his distribution was poor. 5/10 Richard Taundry: The skipper retained

the captaincy despite Lescott's availability but never got to grips with the game. He sur-vived a couple of heavy challenges but for all his determination couldn't get going. 5/10 Julian Gray: A largely anonymous per-formance from the former Birmingham winger. The 30-year-old's contribution was minimal and he must start delivering. He is

a frustrating player who has the talent. 3/10 Liam Dickinson: The lone frontman was an isolated figure at times but stuck to his task admirably. It was a tough ask for the

Don't make hasty move on boss warns O'Connor

Assistant boss Martin O'Connor has

points from safety but O'Connor wants the board to take their time.

"In any walk of life if you go into a new job you don't expect to be successful straight away," he said.
"If you are sometimes in the second or third year you hit a dip. That's the nature of the beast unfortunately. When clubs, managers and players don't get results there are changes to be made at times.
"But, on the whole, looking back there are clubs who kept faith with everyone involved and things turned. I've not noticed any pressure from the club, we put pressure on ourselves because we're winners. We don't feel hard done by because our league position doesn't lie."

Perform

Perform

Perform

"The only way we can turn the corner and change the fans' opinions is to perform.

"I'm not the type of person to hide and crawl under a rock – it's not about that. It's about sticking to your principles, being brave, going about your normal duties and working hard.

The team and management were abused as they left Bournemouth following Saturday's 50-defeat.

But O'Connor defended the fans and insisted they have a right to criticise the team after just one win in 15 games. "We're not going to lambast fans or have a pop at them for their views and opinions because all we can do is do our best and perform," he said.

"When you are doing well and you get the plaudits, you don't turn round and say you don't want them.

"When you're not doing so well then you can't switch off and say you don't want the criticism. We're a football club and we're in a results business.

"You get views and I'm not going to turn away from people giving me their opinion because it would be ignorant and it's not me."

League Table

a distance

Richard Taundry tangles with Danny Hollands.



Up of grabs . . . Walsall's Liam Dickenson tussles with Jason Pearce



Manny Smith rises for the ball with Bournemouth keeper Shwan Jalal.



Shwan Jalal nearly gives a home goal.





SDOTT FIGHTBACK FA SHORT IN THE END Page 58

LOCKMEN'S FIGHTBACK FALLS **DON'T BE HASTY OVER BOSS WARNS** O'CONNOR Page 59



FANS BAYING FOR HUTCHINGS' NECK

BOURNEMOUTH 3 WALSALL O

Angry, upset and fed up—the fans are revolting and there is precious little Walsall can do about it. On Saturday, a small gang of die-hards surrounded the team coach to vent their frustrations after yet another no-show from the relegation-haunted Sad-dlers at Bourneouth.

and ellers at Bourneouth.

They directed their vitriol at manager Chris Hutchings and cries of "we don't want you any more" echoed long after the bus escaped the poisonous atmosphere. Hutling insults and abuse isn't right—Hutchings still a regular man trying to do a jub—but the fass are in pain and from Saturday's evidence it doesn't still a regular man trying to do a jub—but the fass are in pain and from Saturday's evidence it doesn't. The irony was the fant brief protests showed more passion than most players demonstrated during the 30 defeat on the south coast. It's not about ability any more. There are questionable charterm and they now need to step dining from the term and they now need to step dining from the term and they now need to step dining out on so-called reputations. A squad which includes four lonnees will always to be difficult to unite – regardless of what comes to the standard of the standard for the standard

permanance on construct your some was verging on pathetic.

Aside from the opening 25 minutes without their two most influential players – the injured Macken and Martin Devaney – Walsall failed to do the basics right.

The marking for Josh McQuoid's opening two goals was so lax it seemed the defence had taken leave to grab an ice-cream and a bag of chips on The meanurer is the convention of the control of th

Collapsed

and give the ball away.

Collapsed

The club has made mistakes with its transferolicy this year but when we to is professional pride on the line players are still expected to turn up.

On Saturday they collapsed following McQuoid's 30th minute opener and from then there was only ever going to be one outcome.

The look of disappointment from the coaching. The look of disappointment from the coaching again told you everything.

There was an air of resignation in their furrowed browns. No banter, no chat - just a look of concern. Hutchings cut a londy figure as he pased the touch-level of the concern flutchings cut a londy figure as he pased the touch-level of the concern. Hutchings cut a londy figure as he pased the touch-level of the concern. Hutchings cut a londy figure as he pased the touch-level of the concern. Hutchings cut a londy figure as he pased the touch-level of the concern. Hutchings cut a londy figure as he pased the touch-level of the concern. Hutchings cut a londy figure as he pased the touch-level of the law of the level of the law of the law of the level of the law of the level of the law of the law





Saddlers Julian Gray being chased down by Adam Smith during the 3-0



Bournemouth's Jason Pierce gets a grip on Saddlers Reuben Reid.



Liam Dickinson finds himself in an aerial battle

Saddlers side warned stop living in the past

ler-pressure Walsall boss Chris Hutchings broadside at his players and told them to stop

living in the past.

The Saddlers are eight points from safety following Saturday's 3-0 defeat at Bournemouth and are rooted to the bottom of League One.

They are four points admit of second-bottom Yeovil with a third of the season gone and fans hurled insults at Hutchings and the team as they left Dean Court.

The boss, who was let down by his charges on Sat-urday, insisted they cannot rely on reputations any

The boss, who was let down by his charges on Saturday, insisted they cannot rely on reputations any more.

"Names on paper mean nothing. When you cross the white line you have to stand up and be counted." he said. "We've got to roll our sleeves up, dig deep and work even harder. The players have to realise that and we've got to do it.

"You need characters in the team and when things aren't going so well that's when everyone is questioned. We've got to keep working hard at it."

Hutchings, who was without the injured Jon Macken, Martin Devaney and Clayton McDonald, handed defender Andy Butler a debut after signing the 27-year-old for free on Friday.

He believes the former Huddersfield man can add the steel the Saddlers desperately need after just one clean sheet all season.

He said: "He's got character, that's why we've brought him in. He's a left-footer, gives us a bit of balance and likes to defend. He was at Blackpool last season and they got to the Premier League. He's got everything we're looking for and we need him to come to the table now.

"We started to drop off too deep and allowed them too much room in the second half so we've got to be more ruthless but his contribution was good. It's always tough going to a place like Bournemouth because they are on a bit of a roll."

Walsall collapsed after Josh McQuoid bagged the first of his hat-trick on Saturday and Hutchings realised the 30th-minute goal changed the tone of the game.

"We're disappointed because in the first half we had a gene plan which was worthing year. wall."

reassed the source the game.

"We're disappointed because in the first half we had a game plan which was working very well," added Hutchings.

Brain vows to fight to be No1

Axed Jonny Brain vowed to fight for his place and prove he is Walsall's top stopper.

The goalkeeper was dropped after boss Chris Hutchings brought back club legend Jimmy Walker following a poor start to the season.

Brain paid the price for just one clean sheet in the opening 15 games as the Saddlers struggled to escape the League One drop zone.

But the 27-year-old, who played in the 7-0 reserve romp over Rotherham, insisted he has all the experience needed to be the Saddlers' Not. 'I' don't want to be a number two," said Brain, who arrived on a free transfer from Macclesfield in the summer. "Jimmy might help and give a bit of a boost to the fans so that's positive but I'm experienced myself—I've played over 200 games.

"I can't hold my hands up and say I've set the world alight but the plan is to get back in the side.

"I try my hardest in training. It's been difficult, we've struggled and I've had to pick been difficult, we've struggled and I've had to pick about it. I will just get on with things. It's all about being professional and working hard."

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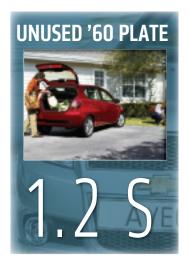
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